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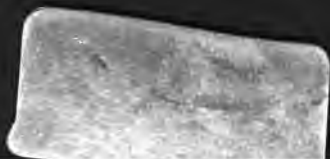
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THE MINISTRY OF SONG.

BY

FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL.

THIRD EDITION.



JAMES NISBET & CO., BERNERS STREET.

MDCCCLXXII.

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To my Father's Memory.



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THE MINISTRY OF SONG.

PRELUDE.

MID the broken waters of our ever-restless
thought,
Oh be my verse an answering gleam from
higher radiance caught;
That where through dark o'erarching boughs of sorrow,
doubt, and sin,
The glorious Star of Bethlehem upon the flood looks
in,
Its tiny trembling ray may bid some downcast vision
turn
To that enkindling Light, for which all earthly shadows
yearn.

Oh be my verse a hidden stream, which silently may
flow

Where drooping leaf and thirsty flower in lonely valleys
grow ;

And often by its shady course to pilgrim hearts be
brought

The quiet and refreshment of an upward-pointing
thought ;

Till, blending with the broad bright stream of sanctified
endeavour,

God's glory be its ocean home, the end it seeketh ever.



THE MINISTRY OF SONG.

N God's great field of labour
 All work is not the same;
 He hath a service for each one
 Who loves His holy name.

And you, to whom the secrets
 Of all sweet sounds are known,
 Rise up! for He hath called you
 To a mission of your own.
 And, rightly to fulfil it,
 His grace can make you strong,
 Who to your charge hath given
 The Ministry of Song.

Sing to the little children,
 And they will listen well;
 Sing grand and holy music,
 For they can feel its spell.
 Tell them the tale of Jephthah;
 Then sing them what he said,—

“Deeper and deeper still,” and watch
How the little cheek grows red,
And the little breath comes quicker;
They will ne’er forget the tale,
Which the song has fastened surely,
As with a golden nail.

I remember, late one evening,
How the music stopped, for, hark!
Charlie’s nursery door was open,
He was calling in the dark,—
“Oh no! I am not frightened,
And I do not want a light;
But I cannot sleep for thinking
Of the song you sang last night.
Something about a ‘valley,’
And ‘make rough places plain,’
And ‘Comfort ye;’ so beautiful!
Oh, sing it me again!”

Sing at the cottage bedside;
They have no music there,
And the voice of praise is silent
After the voice of prayer.

Sing of the gentle Saviour
In the simplest hymns you know,
And the pain-dimmed eye will brighten
As the soothing verses flow.
Better than loudest plaudits
The murmured thanks of such,
For the King will stoop to crown them
With His gracious "Inasmuch."

Sing, where the full-toned organ
Resounds through aisle and nave,
And the choral praise ascendeth
In concord sweet and grave.
Sing, where the village voices
Fall harshly on your ear;
And, while more earnestly you join,
Less discord you will hear.
The noblest and the humblest
Alike are "common praise,"
And not for human ear alone
The psalm and hymn we raise.

Sing in the deepening twilight,
When the shadow of eve is nigh,

THE MINISTRY OF SONG.

And her purple and golden pinions

Fold o'er the western sky.

Sing in the silver silence,

While the first moonbeams fall ;

So shall your power be greater

Over the hearts of all.

Sing till you bear them with you

Into a holy calm,

And the sacred tones have scattered

Manna, and myrrh, and balm.

Sing! that your song may gladden ;

Sing like the happy rills,

Leaping in sparkling blessing

Fresh from the breezy hills.

Sing! that your song may silence

The folly and the jest,

And the "idle word" be banished

As an unwelcome guest.

Sing! that your song may echo

After the strain is past,

A link of the love-wrought cable

That holds some vessel fast.

Sing to the tired and anxious ;
It is yours to fling a ray,
Passing indeed, but cheering,
Across the rugged way.
Sing to God's holy servants,
Weary with loving toil,
Spent with their faithful labour
On oft ungrateful soil.
The chalice of your music
All reverently bear,
For with the blessed angels
Such ministry you share.

When you long to bear the Message
Home to some troubled breast,
Then sing with loving fervour,
"Come unto Him, and rest."
Or would you whisper comfort,
Where words bring no relief,
Sing how "He was despised,
Acquainted with our grief."
And, aided by His blessing,
The song may win its way

Where speech had no admittance,
And change the night to day.

Sing, when His mighty mercies
And marvellous love you feel,
And the deep joy of gratitude
Springs freshly as you kneel;
When words, like morning starlight,
Melt powerless,—rise and sing!
And bring your sweetest music
To Him, your gracious King.
Pour out your song before Him
To whom our best is due;
Remember, He who hears your prayer
Will hear your praises too.

Sing on in grateful gladness!
Rejoice in this good thing
Which the Lord thy God hath given thee,
The happy power to sing.
But yield to Him, the Sovereign,
To whom all gifts belong,
In fullest consecration,
Your Ministry of Song.

Until His mercy grant you
That resurrection voice,
Whose only ministry shall be,
To praise Him and rejoice.



OUR HIDDEN LEAVES.



H the hidden leaves of Life !
 Closely folded in the heart ;
 Leaves where Memory's golden finger,
 Slowly pointing, loves to linger;
 Leaves that bid the old tears start.

Leaves where Hope would read the future,
 Sibylline, and charged with fate :
 Leaves which calm Submission closeth,
 While her tearless eye reposeth
 On the legend, " Trust, and wait !"

Leaves which grave Experience ponders,
 Soundings for her pilot-charts ;
 Leaves which God Himself is storing,
 Records which we read, adoring
 Him who writes on human hearts.

All our own, our treasured secrets,
Indestructible archives !
None can copy, none can steal them,
Death itself shall not reveal them,
Sacred manuscripts of lives.

Some are filled with fairy pictures,
Half imagined and half seen ;
Radiant faces, fretted towers,
Sunset colours, starry flowers,
Wondrous arabesques between.

Some are traced with liquid sunbeams,
Some with fire, and some with tears ;
Some with crimson dyes are glowing,
From a smitten life-rock flowing
Through the wilderness of years.

Some are crossed with later writing,
Palimpsests of earliest days ;
Old remembrance faintly gleaming
Through the thinking and the dreaming ;
Outlines dim in noontide haze.

One lies open, all unwritten,
To the glance of careless sight ;
Yet it bears a shining story,
Traced in phosphorescent glory,
Only legible by night.

One is dark with hieroglyphics
Of some dynasty of grief :
Only God, and just one other,
Dearest friend, or truest brother,
Ever read that hidden leaf.

Many a leaf is undeciphered, ,
Writ in languages unknown ;
O'er the strange inscription bending,
(Every clue in darkness ending,)
Finding no "Rosetta Stone,"

Still we study, always failing !
God can read it, we must wait ;
Wait, until He teach the mystery,
Then the wisdom-woven history
Faith shall read, and love translate.



Leaflets now unpaged and scattered
Time's great library receives ;
When eternity shall bind them,
Golden volumes we shall find them,
God's light falling on the leaves.



THREEFOLD PRAISE.

HAYDN—MENDELSSOHN—HANDEL.

“We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ.”

PART I.

“We bless Thee for our creation.”

Haydn's "Creation."



WHAT is the first and simplest praise,
 The universal debt,
 Which yet the thoughtless heart of man
 So quickly may forget?
 “We bless Thee for creation!”
 So taught the noble band
 Who left a sound and holy form,
 For ages yet to stand,
 Rich legacy of praise and prayer,
 Laid up through ages past,
 Strong witness for the truth of God:
 Oh, may we hold it fast!

“ We bless Thee for creation !”

So are we blithely taught
By Haydn’s joyous spirit ;
Such was the praise he brought.
A praise all morning sunshine,
And sparklets of the spring,
O’er which the long life-shadows
No chastening softness fling.

A praise of early freshness,
Of carol and of trill,
Re-echoing all the music
Of valley and of rill.
A praise that we are sharing
With every singing breeze,
With nightingales and linnets,
With waterfalls and trees ;
With anthems of the flowers,
Too delicate and sweet
For all their fairy minstrelsy
Our mortal ears to greet.

A mighty song of blessing
Archangels too uplift,

For their own bright existence,
A grand and glorious gift.
But such their full life-chalice,
So sparkling and so pure,
And such their vivid sense of joy,
Sweet, solid, and secure,
We cannot write the harmonies
To such a song of bliss,
We only catch the melody,
And sing, content with this.

We are but little children,
And earth a broken toy,
We do not know the treasures
In our Father's house of joy.
Thanksgivings for creation
We ignorantly raise ;
We know not yet the thousandth part
Of that for which we praise.

Yet, praise Him for creation !
Nor cease the happy song,
But this our Hallelujah
Through all our life prolong ;

'Twill mingle with the chorus
Before the heavenly throne,
Where what it truly is to BE
Shall first be fully known.

PART II.

“ . . . preservation, and all the blessings of this life.”

Mendelssohn's "Elijah."

O FELIX! happy in thy varied store
Of harmonies undreamt before,
How different was the gift
Of praise 'twas thine to pour,
Whether in stately calm, or tempest strong and
swift!

Mark the day,
In mourning robe of grey,
Of shrouded mountain and of storm-swept vale,
And purple pall spread o'er the distance pale,
While thunderous masses wildly drift
In lurid gloom and grandeur: then a swift
And dazzling ray bursts through a sudden rift;

The dark waves glitter as the storms subside,
And all is light and glory at the eventide.

O sunlight of thanksgiving! Who that knows
Its bright forth-breaking after dreariest days,
Would change the after-thought of woes
For memory's loveliest light that glows,
If so he must forego one note of that sweet praise?

For not the song
Which knows no minor cadence, sad and long;
And not the tide
Whose emerald and silver pride
Was never dashed in wild and writhing fray,
Where grim and giant rocks hurl back the spray;
And not the crystal atmosphere,
That carves each outline sharp and clear
Upon a sapphire sky; not these, not these,
Nor aught existing but to charm and please,
Without acknowledging life's mystery,
And all the mighty reign
Of yearning and of pain
That fills its half-read history,
Fit music can supply
To lift the wandering heart on high

To that Preserving Love, which rules all change,
And gives "all blessings of this life," so dream-like
and so strange.

And his was praise
Deeper and truer, such as those may raise
Who know both shade and sunlight, and whose life
Hath learnt victorious strife
Of courage and of trust and hope still dear,
With passion and with grief, with danger and with fear.

Upriseth now a cry,
Plaintive and piercing, to the brazen sky:
Help, Lord! the harvest days are gone;
Help, Lord! for other help is none;
The infant children cry for bread,
And no man breaketh it. The suckling's tongue for
thirst
Now cleaveth to his mouth. Our land is cursed,
Our wasted Zion mourns, in vain her hands are spread.

A mother's tale of grief,
Of sudden blight upon the chief,

The *only* flower of love that cheered her widowed
need :

O loneliest ! O desolate indeed !

Were it not mockery to whisper here
A word of hope and cheer ?

A mountain brow, an awe-struck crowd,
The prayer-sent flame, the prayer-sent cloud,
A mighty faith, a more than kingly power,
Changed for depression's darkest hour,
For one lone shadow in the desert sought,
A fainting frame, a spirit overwrought,
A sense of labour vain, and strength all spent for nought.

Death hovering near,
With visible terror-spear
Of famine, or a murder-stained sword,
A stricken land forsaken of her Lord ;
While bowed with doubled fear,
The faithful few appear ;
O sorrows manifold outpoured !
Is blessing built upon such dark foundation ;
And can a temple rising from such woe,
Rising upon such mournful crypts below,
Be filled with light and joy and sounding adoration ?

O strange mosaic! wondrously inlaid
Are all its depths of shade,
With beauteous stones of promise, marbles fair
Of trust and calm, and flashing brightly, there
The precious gems of praise are set, and shine
Resplendent with a light that almost seems Divine.

Thanks be to God!
The thirsty land he laveth,
The perishing he saveth;
The floods lift up their voices,
The answering earth rejoices.
Thanks be to Him, and never-ending laud,
For this new token of His bounteous love,
Who reigns in might the waterfloods above;
The gathering waters rush along;
And leaps the exultant shout, one cataract of song,
Thanks be to God!

Thus joyously we sing;
Nor is this all the praise we bring.
We need not wait for earthquake, storm, and fire
To lift our praises higher;
Nor wait for heaven-dawn ere we join the hymn
Of throne-surrounding cherubim;

For even on earth their anthem hath begun,
To Him, the Mighty and the Holy One.
We know the still small Voice in many a word
Of guidance, and command, and promise heard ;
And, knowing it, we bow before His feet,
With love and awe the seraph-strain repeat,
Holy, holy, holy ! God the Lord !
His glory fills the earth, His name be all-adored.

O Lord, our Lord ! how excellent Thy name
Throughout this universal frame !
Therefore Thy children rest
Beneath the shadow of Thy wings,
A shelter safe and blest ;
And tune their often tremulous strings
Thy love to praise, Thy glory to proclaim,
The Merciful, the Gracious One, eternally The Same.

PART III.

“ . . . but above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Handel's “Messiah.”

HUSH! for a master harp is tuned again,
In truest unison with choirs above,
For prelude to a loftier, sweeter strain,
The praise of God's inestimable love;
Who sent redemption to a world of woe,
That all a Father's heart his banished ones might
know.

Hush! while on silvery wing of holiest song
Floats forth the old, dear story of our peace,
His coming, the Desire of Ages long,
To wear our chains, and win our glad release.
Our wondering joy, to hear such tidings blest,
Is crowned with “Come to Him, and He will give
you rest.”

Rest, by His sorrow ! Bruisèd for our sin,
Behold the Lamb of God ! His death our life.
Now lift your heads, ye gates ! He entereth in,
Christ risen indeed, and Conqueror in the strife.
Thanks, thanks to Him who won, and Him who gave
Such victory of love, such triumph o'er the grave.

Hark ! "Hallelujah !" O sublimest strain !
Is it prophetic echo of the day
When He, our Saviour and our King, shall reign,
And all the earth shall own His righteous sway ?
Lift heart and voice, and swell the mighty chords,
While hallelujahs peal, to Him, the Lord of lords !

"Worthy of all adoration,
Is the Lamb that once was slain,"
Cry, in raptured exultation,
His redeemed from every nation ;
Angel-myriads join the strain ;
Sounding from their sinless strings
Glory to the King of kings :
Harping, with their harps of gold,
Praise which never can be told.

Hallelujahs full and swelling
Rise around His throne of might,
All our highest laud excelling,
Holy and Immortal, dwelling
In the unapproachèd light,
He is worthy to receive
All that heaven and earth can give,
Blessing, honour, glory, might,
All are His by glorious right.

As the sound of many waters
Let the full Amen arise !
HALLELUJAH ! Ceasing never,
Sounding through the great FOR EVER,
Linking all its harmonies ;
Through eternities of bliss,
Lord, our rapture shall be this ;
And our endless life shall be
One AMEN of praise to Thee.



NOT YET.

JOHN xiii. 7.



NOT yet thou knowest what I do,
 O feeble child of earth,
 Whose life is but to angel view
 The morning of thy birth!
 The smallest leaf, the simplest flower,
 The wild bee's honey-cell,
 Have lessons of My love and power
 Too hard for thee to spell.

Thou knowest not how I uphold
 The little thou dost scan;
 And how much less canst thou unfold,
 My universal plan,
 Where all thy mind can grasp of space
 Is but a grain of sand;—
 The time thy boldest thought can trace,
 One ripple on the strand!

Not yet thou knowest what I do
In this wild, warring world,
Whose prince doth still triumphant view,
Confusion's flag unfurled ;
Nor how each proud and daring thought
Is subject to My will,
Each strong and secret purpose brought
My counsel to fulfil.

Not yet thou knowest how I bid
Each passing hour entwine
Its grief or joy, its hope or fear,
In one great love-design ;
Nor how I lead thee through the night,
By many a various way,
Still upward to unclouded light,
And onward to the day.

Not yet thou knowest what I do
Within thine own weak breast ;
To mould thee to My image true,
And fit thee for My rest.
But yield thee to My loving skill ;
The veiled work of grace,

From day to day progressing still,
It is not thine to trace.

Yes, walk by faith and not by sight,
Fast clinging to My hand ;
Content to feel My love and might,
Not yet to understand.
A little while thy course pursue,
Till grace to glory grow ;
Then what I am, and what I do,
Hereafter thou shalt know.



THANKSGIVING.

 HANKS be to God ! to whom earth owes
 Sunshine and breeze,
 The heath-clad hill, the vale's repose,
 Streamlet and seas,
 The snowdrop and the summer rose,
 The many-voicèd trees.

Thanks for the darkness that reveals
 Night's starry dower ;
 And for the sable cloud that heals
 Each fevered flower ;
 And for the rushing storm that peals
 Our weakness and Thy power.

Thanks for the sweetly-lingering might
 In music's tone ;
 For paths of knowledge, whose calm light
 Is all Thine own ;

For thoughts that at the Infinite
Fold their bright wings alone.

Yet thanks that silence oft may flow
In dewlike store ;
Thanks for the mysteries that shew
How small our lore ;
Thanks that we here so little know,
And trust Thee all the more !

Thanks for the gladness that entwines
Our path below ;
Each sunrise that incarnadines
The cold, still snow ;
Thanks for the light of love which shines
With brightest earthly glow.

Thanks for the sickness and the grief
Which none may flee ;
For loved ones standing now around
The crystal sea ;
And for the weariness of heart
Which only rests in Thee.

Thanks for thine own thrice-blessèd Word,
And Sabbath rest ;
Thanks for the hope of glory stored
In mansions blest ;
Thanks for the Spirit's comfort poured
Into the trembling breast.

Thanks, more than thanks, to Him ascend,
Who died to win
Our life, and every trophy rend
From Death and Sin ;
Till, when the thanks of Earth shall end,
The thanks of Heaven begin,

NOTE.—It may be well to say, that these verses were in print before the writer either saw or heard of the beautiful little poem by Adelaide Procter on the same theme.



LIFE-CRYSTALS.

HE world is full of crystals. Swift, or slow,
Or dark, or bright their varying formation ;
From pure calm heights of fair untrodden
snow

To fire-wrought depths of earliest creation.
And life is full of crystals ; forming still
In myriad-shaped results from good and seeming ill.

Yes ! forming everywhere ; in busiest street,
In noisiest throng. Oh how it would astound us,
The strange soul-chemistry of some we meet
In slight and passing talk ! For all around us,
Deep inner silence broods o'er gems to be.
Now, in three visioned hearts trace out the work with
me !

A heart that wonderingly received the flow
Of marvels and of mysteries of being,

Of sympathies and tensions, joy and woe ;
Each earnestly from baser substance freeing :
A great life-mixture, full, and deep, and strong :
A sudden touch, and lo ! it crystallised in song.

Then forth it flashed among the souls of men
Its own prismatic radiance, brightly sealing
A several rainbow for each several ken ;
The secrets of the distant stars revealing ;
Reflecting many a heart's clear rays unknown,
And, freely shedding light, it analysed their own.

A heart from which all joy had ebbed away,
And grief poured in a flood of burning anguish,
Then sealed the molten glow ; till, day by day,
The fires without, within, began to languish :
Then "afterward" came coolness ; all was well,
And from the broken crust a shining crystal fell.

A mourner found, and fastened on her breast
The soft-hued gem, the prized by mourners only ;
c*

With sense of treasure gained she sought her rest,
No longer wandering in the twilight lonely;
The sorrow-crystal glittering in the dark,
While faith and hope shone out to greet its starry spark.

A heart where emptiness seemed emptier made
By colourless remains of tasteless pleasure;
ONE came, and pitying the hollow shade,
Poured in His own strong love in fullest measure;
Then shadowed it with silent falling night,
And stilled it with the solemn Presence of His might.

A little while, then found the Master there
Love-crystals sparkling in the joyous morning;
He stooped to gaze, and smiled to own them fair,
A treasured choice for His own rich adorning;
Then set them in His diadem above,
To mingle evermore with His own light and love.



NOT YOUR OWN.

“OT your own!” but His ye are,
 Who hath paid a price untold
 For your life, exceeding far
 All earth’s store of gems and gold.
 With the precious blood of Christ,
 Ransom treasure all unpriced,
 Full redemption is procured,
 Full salvation is assured.

“Not your own!” but His by right,
 His peculiar treasure now,
 Fair and precious in His sight,
 Purchased jewels for His brow.
 He will keep what thus He sought,
 Safely guard the dearly bought,
 Cherish that which He did choose,
 Always love and never lose.

“Not your own!” but His, the King,
His, the Lord of earth and sky,
His, to whom archangels bring
Homage deep and praises high.
What can royal birth bestow?
Or the proudest titles shew?
Can such dignity be known
As the glorious name, “His own!”

“Not your own!” To Him ye owe
All your life and all your love;
Live, that ye His praise may shew,
Who is yet all praise above.
Every day and every hour,
Every gift and every power,
Consecrate to Him alone,
Who hath claimed you for His own.

Teach us, Master, how to give
All we have and are to Thee;
Grant us, Saviour, while we live,
Wholly, only, Thine to be.

Henceforth be our calling high
Thee to serve and glorify;
Ours no longer, but Thine own,
Thine for ever, Thine alone!



WOUNDED.



NLY a look and a motion that nobody saw or
 heard,
 Past in a moment and over, with never the
 sound of a word;
 Streams of converse around me smoothly and cheerily
 flow,
 But a terrible stab has been given, a silent and stag-
 gering blow.

Guesses the hand that gave it hardly a tithe of the
 smart,
 Nothing at all of the anguish that fiercely leapt up in
 my heart,
 Scorching and scathing its peace, while a tremulous
 nerve to the brain
 Flashed up a telegram sudden, a message of quivering
 pain.

They must be merry without me, for how can I sing
to-night?

They will only think I am tired, and thoughtfully
shade the light;

Finger and voice would fail while the wound is open
and sore;

Bleeding away the strength I had gathered for days
before.

Only a look and a motion! Yes, but we little know
How from each dwarf-like "only" a giant of power
may grow;

The thundering avalanche crushes, loosened by only
a breath,

And only a colourless drop may be laden with sudden
death.

Only a word of command, but it loses or wins the
field;

Only a stroke of the pen, but a heart is broken or
healed;

Only a step may sever, pole-wide, future and past;

Only a touch may rivet links which for life shall last.

Only a look and a motion! Why was the wound so
deep?

Were it no echo of sorrow, hushed for awhile to
sleep,

Were it no shadow of fear, far o'er the future thrown,
Slight were the suffering now, if it bore on the present
alone.

Ah! I would smile it away, but 't is all too fresh and
too keen;

Perhaps I may some day recall it as if it had never
been;

Now I can only be still, and endure where I cannot cope,
Praying for meekness and patience, praying for faith
and hope.

Is it an answer already that words to my mind are
brought,

Floating like shining lilies on waters of gloomiest
thought?

Simple and short is the sentence, but oh! what it
comprehends!

*"Those with which I was wounded, in the house of My
friends."*

Floating still on my heart, while I listen again and
again,
Stilling the anxious throbbing, soothing the icy pain,
Proving its sacred mission healing and balm to bring.
“Coming?” Yes, if you want me! Yes, I am ready
to sing.



WHOSE I AM.



JESUS, Master, whose I am,
 Purchased Thine alone to be,
 By Thy blood, O spotless Lamb,
 Shed so willingly for me;
 Let my heart be all Thine own,
 Let me live to Thee alone.

Other lords have long held sway;
 Now, Thy name alone to bear,
 Thy dear voice alone obey,
 Is my daily, hourly prayer.
 Whom have I in heaven but Thee?
 Nothing else my joy can be.

Jesus, Master! I am Thine;
 Keep me faithful, keep me near;
 Let Thy presence in me shine
 All my homeward way to cheer.
 Jesus! at Thy feet I fall,
 Oh, be Thou my All-in-all.

WHOM I SERVE.



JESUS, Master, whom I serve,
 Though so feebly and so ill,
 Strengthen hand and heart and nerve
 All Thy bidding to fulfil ;

Open Thou mine eyes to see
 All the work Thou hast for me.

Lord, Thou needest not, I know,
 Service such as I can bring ;
 Yet I long to prove and show
 Full allegiance to my King.
 Thou an honour* art to me,
 Let me be a praise to Thee.

Jesus, Master ! wilt Thou use
 One who owes Thee more than all ?
 As Thou wilt ! I would not choose,
 Only let me hear Thy call.
 Jesus ! let me always be
 In Thy service glad and free.

* See marginal reading of 1 Peter ii. 7.

P E A C E.

S this the Peace of God, this strange, sweet
calm ?

The weary day is at its zenith still,
Yet 't is as if beside some cool, clear rill,
Through shadowy stillness rose an evening psalm,
And all the noise of life were hushed away,
And tranquil gladness reigned with gently soothing
sway.

It was not so just now. I turned aside
With aching head, and heart most sorely bowed ;
Around me cares and griefs in crushing crowd,
While inly rose the sense, in swelling tide,
Of weakness, insufficiency, and sin,
And fear, and gloom, and doubt, in mighty flood
rolled in.

That rushing flood I had no strength to meet,
Nor power to flee : my present, future, past,
My self, my sorrow, and my sin I cast
In utter helplessness at Jesu's feet ;
Then bent me to the storm, if such His will.
He saw the winds and waves, and whispered, "Peace,
be still!"

And there was calm ! O Saviour, I have proved
That Thou to help and save art *really* near :
How else this quiet rest from grief, and fear,
And all distress ? The cross is not removed,
I must go forth to bear it as before,
But, leaning on Thine arm, I dread its weight no more.

Is it indeed Thy Peace ? I have not tried
To analyse my faith, dissect my trust,
Or measure if belief be full and just,
And therefore claim Thy Peace. But Thou hast died,
I know that this is true, and true for me,
And, knowing it, I come, and cast my all on Thee.

It is not that I feel less weak, but Thou
Wilt be my strength ; it is not that I see
Less sin, but more of pardoning love with Thee,
And all-sufficient grace. Enough ! And now
All fluttering thought is stilled, I only rest,
And feel that Thou art near, and know that I am blest.



GOD'S MESSAGE:

TO HIM THAT IS FAR OFF.

PEACE, peace !

To him that is far away.

Turn, O wanderer ! why wilt thou die,
 When the peace is made that shall bring thee nigh ?
 Listen, O rebel ! the heralds proclaim
 The King's own peace through a Saviour's name :
 Then yield thee to-day.

Peace, peace !

The word of the Lord to thee.

Peace, for thy passion and restless pride,
 For thy endless cravings all unsupplied,
 Peace for thy weary and sin-worn breast ;
 He knows the need who has promised rest,
 And the gift is free.

Peace, peace !

Through Him who for all hath died !
Wider the terms than thy deepest guilt,
Or in vain were the blood of our Surety spilt :
Even *because* thou art far away
To thee is the message of peace to-day,
Peace through the Crucified.

AND TO HIM THAT IS NEAR.

PEACE, peace !

Yea, peace to him that is near.
The crown is set on the Victor's brow,
For thy warfare is accomplished now ;
And for thee eternal peace is made
By the Lord on whom thy sins were laid :
Then why shouldst thou fear ?

Peace, peace !

Wrought by the Spirit of Might.
In thy deepest sorrow and sorest strife,
In the changes and chances of mortal life,

It is thine, belovèd ! Christ's own bequest,
Which vainly the Tempter shall strive to wrest;
It is now thy right.

Peace, peace !
Look for its bright increase ;
Deepening, widening, year by year,
Like a sunlit river, strong, calm, and clear ;
Lean on His love through this earthly vale,
For His word and His work shall never fail,
And "He is our Peace."



“A GREAT MYSTERY.”



HERE is a hush in earth and sky,
 The ear is free to list aright
 In darkness, veiling from the eye
 The many-coloured spells of light.

Not heralded by fire and storm,
 In shadowy outline dimly seen,
 Comes through the gloom a glorious Form,
 The once despisèd Nazarene.

Through waiting silence, voiceless shade,
 A still, small Voice so clearly floats,
 A listening lifetime were o'erpaid
 By one sweet echo of such notes.

“Fear not, beloved ! thou art Mine,
 For I have given my life for thee ;
 By name I call thee, rise and shine,
 Be praise and glory unto Me.

"In me all spotless and complete,
And in My comeliness most fair
Art thou ; to Me thy voice is sweet,
Prevailing in thy feeblest prayer.

"Thy life is hid in God with Me,
I stoop to dwell within thy breast ;
My joy for ever thou shalt be,
And in My love for thee I rest.

"O Prince's daughter, whom I see
In bridal garments, pure as light,
Betrothed for ever unto me,
On thee My own new name I write."

Lo ! 'neath the stars' uncertain ray
In flowing mantle glistening fair,
One, lowly bending, turns away
From that sweet voice in cold despair.

Is it Humility, who sees
Herself unworthy of such grace,
Who dares not hope her Lord to please,
Who dares not look upon His face ?

Nay, where that mantle fleeting gleams,
'T is Unbelief who turns aside,
Who rather rests in self-spun dreams,
Than trust the love of Him who died.

Faith casts away the fair disguise,
She will not doubt her Master's voice,
And droop when He hath bid her rise,
Or mourn when He hath said, "Rejoice!"

Her stained and soiled robes she leaves,
And Christ's own shining raiment takes;
What His love gives, her love receives,
And meek and trustful answer makes:

"Behold the handmaid of the Lord!
Thou callest, and I come to Thee:
According to Thy faithful word,
O Master, be it unto me!

"Thy love I cannot comprehend,
I only know Thy word is true,
And that Thou lovest to the end
Each whom to Thee the Father drew.

"Oh! take the heart I could not give
Without Thy strength-bestowing call;
In Thee, and for Thee, let me live,
For I am nothing, Thou art all."



BE NOT WEARY.



ES! He knows the way is dreary,
 Knows the weakness of our frame,
 Knows that hand and heart are weary;
 He, "in all points," felt the same.
 He is near to help and bless;
 Be not weary, onward press.

Look to Him who once was willing
 All His glory to resign,
 That, for thee the law fulfilling,
 All his merit might be thine.
 Strive to follow day by day
 Where His footsteps mark the way.

Look to Him, the Lord of Glory,
 Tasting death to win thy life;
 Gazing on "that wondrous story;"
 Canst thou falter in the strife?

Is it not new life to know
That the Lord hath loved thee so ?

Look to Him who ever liveth,
Interceding for His own ;
Seek, yea, claim the grace He giveth
Freely from His priestly throne.
Will He not thy strength renew
With His Spirit's quickening dew ?

Look to Him, and faith shall brighten,
Hope shall soar, and love shall burn ;
Peace once more thy heart shall lighten ;
Rise ! He calleth thee, return !
Be not weary on thy way,
Jesus is thy strength and stay.



THE GREAT TEACHER.



LOVE to feel that I am taught,
 And, as a little child,
 To note the lessons I have learnt
 In passing through the wild.
 For I am sure God teaches me,
 And His own gracious hand
 Each varying page before me spreads,
 By love and wisdom planned.

I often think I cannot spell
 The lesson I must learn,
 And then, in weariness and doubt,
 I pray the page may turn ;
 But time goes on, and soon I find
 I was learning all the while ;
 And words which seemed most dimly traced
 Shine out with rainbow smile.

Or sometimes strangely I forget,
And, learning o'er and o'er,
A lesson all with tear-drops wet,
Which I had learnt before.
He chides me not, but waits awhile,
Then wipes my heavy eyes :
Oh what a Teacher is our God,
So patient and so wise !

Dark silent hours of study fall ;
And I can scarcely see :
Then one beside me whispers low
What is so hard to me.
'T is easier then ! I am so glad
I am not taught alone ;
It is such help to overhear
A lesson like my own.

Sometimes the Master gives to me
A strange new alphabet ;
I wonder what its use will be,
Or why it need be set.
And then I find this tongue alone
Some stranger ear can reach,

One whom He may commission me
For Him to train or teach.

If others sadly bring to me
A lesson hard and new,
I often find that helping them
Has made me learn it too.
Or, had I learnt it long before,
My toil is overpaid,
If so one tearful eye may see
One lesson plainer made.

We do not see our Teacher's face,
We do not hear His voice ;
And yet we know that He is near,
We feel it, and rejoice.
There is a music round our hearts,
Set in no mortal key ;
There is a Presence with our souls,
We know that it is He.

His loving teaching cannot fail ;
And we shall know at last
Each task that seemed so hard and strange,
When learning time is past.

Oh ! may we learn to love Him more,
By every opening page,
By every lesson he shall mark
With daily ripening age.

And then, to “ know as we are known ”
Shall be our glorious prize,
To see the Teacher who hath been
So patient and so wise.
O joy untold ! Yet not alone
Shall ours the gladness be ;
The travail of His soul in us
Our Saviour-God shall see.



AUNTIE'S LESSONS

HEY said their texts, and their hymns they
sang

On that sunny Sabbath day ;
And yet there was time ere the church-bell rang,
So I bid them trot away,
And leave me to rest and read alone,
Where the ash-tree's shade o'er the lawn was thrown.

But oh ! 't was a cry and a pleading sore,
"O Auntie ! we will not tease,
But tell us one Sunday story more ;
We will sit so still on the grassy floor ;
Tell us the one you told before
Of little black Mumu, please,
Whom, deaf and dumb, and sick and lone,
The good ship brought to Sierra Leone."

Willie begged loud, and Francie low,
And Alice, who could resist her ?

Certainly not myself, and so
The story was just beginning, when lo !
To the rescue came my sister.
“ *I* will tell you a story to-day ;
Aunt Fanny has all her own lessons to say ! ”

Wonderful notion, and not at all clear !
Alfred looked quite astounded.
Who in the world *my* lessons could hear ?
They guessed at every one far and near,
’T was a mystery unbounded.
They settled at last that it must be
Grandpapa Havergal over the sea.

Then merry eyes grew grave and wise,
On tiptoe Alice trod ;
She had a better thought than they,
And whispered low, “ Does Auntie say
Her lessons all to God ? ”
How little the import deep she knew
Of those baby-words, so sweet and true !

Little she knew what they enfold !—
A treasure of happy thought ;

A tiny casket of virgin gold,
With jewels of comfort fraught.
Great men's wisdom may pass away,
Dear Alice's words in my heart will stay.



R E S T.

“Thou hast made us for Thyself, and the heart never resteth
till it findeth rest in Thee.”—*St Augustine.*

MADE for Thyself, O God !

Made for Thy love, Thy service, Thy delight ;
Made to shew forth Thy wisdom, grace, and might ;
Made for Thy praise, whom veiled archangels laud ;
Oh strange and glorious thought, that we may be
A joy to Thee !

Yet the heart turns away
From this grand destiny of bliss, and deems
'T was made for its poor self, for passing dreams,
Chasing illusions melting day by day ;
Till *for ourselves* we read on this world's best,
“This is not rest !”

Nor can the vain toil cease,
Till in the shadowy maze of life we meet

One who can guide our aching, wayward feet
To find Himself, our Way, our Life, our Peace.
In Him the long unrest is soothed and stilled ;
Our hearts are filled.

O rest, so true, so sweet !
(Would it were shared by all the weary world !)
'Neath shadowing banner of His love unfurled,
We bend to kiss the Master's piercèd feet ;
Then lean our love upon His loving breast,
And know God's rest.



ONE QUESTION, MANY ANSWERS.

“WHAT wouldst thou be?”

The question hath wakened wild thoughts in me,
 And a thousand responses, like ghosts from their graves,
 Arise from my soul's unexplored deep caves,
 The echoes of every varying mood
 Of a wayward spirit all unsubdued ;
 The voices which thrill through my inmost breast
 May tell me of gladness, but not of rest.

What wouldst thou be ?

'T is well that the answer is not for me.

“What wouldst thou be?”

An eagle soaring rejoicingly.
 One who may rise on the lightning's wing,
 Till our wide, wide world seem a tiny thing ;
 Who may stand on the confines of boundless space,
 And the giant form of the universe trace,

* E

While its full grand harmonies swell around,
And grasp it all with mind profound.

Such would I be,
Only stayed by infinity.

“What wouldst thou be?”

A bright incarnation of melody.
One whose soul is a fairy lute,
Waking such tones as bid all be mute,
Breathing such notes as may silence woe,
Pouring such strains as make joy o’erflow,
Speaking in music the heart’s deep emotion,
Soothing and sweet as the shell of the ocean.

Such would I be,
Like a fountain of music, all pure and free.

“What wouldst thou be?”

A living blossom of poesy.
A soul of mingled power and light,
Evoking images rare and bright,
Fair and pure as an angel’s dream ;
Touching all with a heavenly gleam ;
And royally claiming from poet-throne
Earth’s treasure of beauty as all mine own.

Such would I be—
My childhood's dream in reality!

“What wouldst thou be?”
A wondrous magnet to all I see.
A spirit whose power may touch and bind
With unconscious influence every mind;
Whose presence brings, like some fabled wand,
The love which a monarch may not command;
As the spring awakens from cold repose
The bloomless brier, the sweet wild rose.

Such would I be,
With the love of all to encircle me!

“What wouldst thou be?”
A wavelet just rising from life's wide sea.
I would I were once again a child,
Like a laughing floweret on mountains wild;
In the fairy realms of fancy dwelling,
The golden moments for sunbeams selling;
Ever counting on bright to-morrows,
And knowing nought of unspoken sorrows.

Such would I be,
A sparkling cascade of untiring glee.

“What wouldst thou be?”

A blessing to each one surrounding me ;
A chalice of dew to the weary heart,
A sunbeam of joy bidding sorrow depart,
To the storm-tossed vessel a beacon light,
A nightingale song in the darkest night,
A beckoning hand to a far-off goal,
An angel of love to each friendless soul,
Such would I be.
Oh that *such* happiness were for me !

“What wouldst thou be?”

With these alone were no rest for me.
I would be my Saviour's loving child,
With a heart set free from its passions wild,
Rejoicing in Him and His own sweet ways ;
An echo of heaven's unceasing praise,
A mirror here of His light and love,
And a polished gem in His crown above.
Such would I be,
Thine, O Saviour, and one with Thee !



C O N T E N T.

“‘WHAT wouldst thou be?’—

A wavelet just rising from life's wide sea.
 I would I were once again a child,
 Like a laughing floweret on mountains wild ;
 In the fairy realms of fancy dwelling,
 The golden moments for sunbeams selling ;
 Ever counting on bright to-morrows,
 And knowing nought of unspoken sorrows :
 Such would I be,
 A sparkling cascade of untiring glee.”

1860.

* * * * *

Not so, not so !

For longings change as the full years flow.
 When I had but taken a step or two
 From the fairy regions still in view ;
 While their playful breezes fanned me still
 At every pause on the steeper hill,

And the blossoms showered from every shoot,
Showered and fell, and yet no fruit,—
 It was grief and pain
That I never could be a child again.

Not so, not so !
Back to my life-dawn I would not go.
A little is lost, but more is won
As the sterner work of the day is done.
We forget that the troubles of childish days
Were once gigantic in morning haze.
There is less of fancy, but more of truth,
For we lose the mists with the dew of youth ;
 And a rose is born
On many a spray which seemed only thorn.

Not so, not so !
While the years of childhood glided slow,
There was all to receive and nothing to give :
Is it not better for others to live ?
And happier far than merriest games
Is the joy of our new and nobler aims :
Then fair fresh flowers, *now* lasting gems ;
Then wreaths for a day, but *now* diadems,

For ever to shine,
Bright in the radiance of Love Divine.

Not so, not so !
I would not again be a child, I know !
But were it not pleasant again to stand
On the border-line of that fairy land,—
Feeling so buoyant and blithe and strong,
Fearing no slip as we bound along,
Halting at will in the sunshine to bask,
Deeming the journey an easy task,

While Courage and Hope
Smooth with "Come, see, and conquer" each
emerald slope?

Not so, not so !
Less leaping flame, but a deeper glow !
There is more of sorrow, but more of joy,
Less glittering ore, but less alloy ;
There is more of pain, but more of balm,
And less of pleasure, but more of calm ;
Many a hope all spent and dead,
But higher and brighter hopes instead ;
Less risked, more won ;
Less planned and dreamed, but perhaps more done.

Not so, not so !

Not in stature and learning alone we grow
Though we no more look from year to year,
For power of mind more strong and clear,
Though the table-land of life we tread,
No widening view before us spread,
No sunlit summits to lure ambition,
But only the path of a daily mission,
We would not turn
Where the will-o'-the-wisps of our young dreams
burn.

Then be it so !

For in better things we yet may grow.
Onward and upward still our way,
With the joy of progress from day to day ;
Nearer and nearer every year
To the visions and hopes most true and dear ;
Children still of a Father's love,
Children still of a home above !

Thus we look back,
Without a sigh, o'er the lengthening track.

1867,

MISUNDERSTOOD.

“EOPLE do not understand me,
 Their ideas are not like mine;
 All advances seem to land me
 Still outside their guarded shrine.”

So you turn from simple joyance,
 Losing many a mutual good,
 Weary with the chill annoyance
 So to be misunderstood.

Let me try to lift the curtain
 Hiding other hearts from view;
 You complain, but are you certain
 That the fault is not with you?

In the sunny summer hours,
 Sitting in your quiet room,
 Can you wonder if the flowers
 Breathe for you no sweet perfume?

True, you see them bright and pearly
 With the jewelry of morn ;
But their fragrance, fresh and early,
 Is not through your window borne.

You must go to them, and stooping,
 Cull the blossoms where they live;
On your bosom gently drooping,
 All their treasure they will give.

Who would guess what fragrance lingers
 In verbena's pale green show !
Press the leaflet in your fingers,
 All its sweetness you will know.

Few the harps Æolian, sending
 Unsought music on the wind :
Else must love and skill be blending
 Music's full response to find.

“ But my key-note,” are you thinking,
 “ Will not modulate to theirs ?”
Seek ! and subtle chords enlinking,
 Soon shall blend the differing airs.

Fairly sought, some point of contact
There must be with every mind ;
And, perchance, the closest compact
Where we least expect we find.

Perhaps the heart you meet so coldly
Burns with deepest lava-glow ;
Wisely pierce the crust, and boldly,
And a fervid stream shall flow.

Dialects of love are many,
Though the language be but one ;
Study all you can, or any,
While life's precious school-hours run.

Closed the heart-door of thy brother,
All its treasure long concealed ?
One key fails, then try another,
Soon the rusty lock shall yield.

Few have not some hidden trial,
And could sympathise with thine ;
Do not take it as denial
That you see no outward sign.

Silence is no certain token
That no secret grief is there ;
Sorrow which is never spoken
Is the heaviest load to bear.

Seldom can the heart be lonely,
If it seek a lonelier still,
Self-forgetting, seeking only
Emptier cups of love to fill.

'Twill not be a fruitless labour,
Overcome this ill with good ;
Try to understand your neighbour,
And you will be understood.



SUNBEAMS IN THE WOOD.

ARK ye not the sunbeams glancing
Through the cool green shade,
On the waving fern-leaves dancing,
In the quiet glade ?

See you how they change and quiver
Where the broad oaks rise,
Rippling like a golden river
From their fountain skies ?

On the grey old timber resting
Like a sleeping dove,
Like a fairy grandchild nesting
In an old man's love.

On the dusty pathway tracing
Arabesques with golden style ;
Light and shadow interlacing,
Like a tearful smile.

Many a hidden leaf revealing,
Many an unseen flower ;
Like a maiden lightly stealing
Past each secret bower.

Oh ! how beautiful they make it
Everywhere they fall ;
Sunbeams ! why will ye forsake it
At pale Evening's call ?

In the arching thickets linger,
In the woodland aisle,
Gilding them with trembling finger,
Yet a little while.

Then, your last calm radiance pouring,
Bid the earth good night ;
Like a sainted spirit soaring
To a home of light.



THE STAR SHOWER.

NOVEMBER 14. 1866.



H ! to raise a mighty shout,
 And bid the sleepers all come out !
 No dreamer's fancy, fair and high,
 Could image forth a grander sky.

And oh, for eyes of swifter power
 To follow fast the starry shower !
 Oh ! for a sweep of vision clear
 To grasp at once a hemisphere !

The solemn old chorale of Night,
 With fullest chords of awful might,
 Re-echoes still in stately march
 Throughout the glowing heavenly arch :
 But harmonies all new and rare
 Are intermingling everywhere,
 Fantastic, fitful, fresh, and free ;

A sparkling wealth of melody,
A carol of sublimest glee,
Is bursting from the starry chorus,
In dazzling exultation o'er us.

O wondrous sight! so swift, so bright,
Like sudden thrills of strange delight;
As if the stars were all at play,
And kept ecstatic holiday;
As if it were a jubilee
Of glad millenniums fully told,
Or universal sympathy
With some new-dawning age of gold.

Flashing from the lordly lion,
Flaming under bright Procyon,
From the farthest east up-ranging,
Past the blessed orb* unchanging;
Ursa's brilliance far out-gleaming,
From the very zenith streaming;
Rushing, as in joy delirious,
To the pure white ray of Sirius;

* "That admirable Polar Star, which is a *blessing* to astronomers."—*Professor Airy's Popular Lectures on Astronomy.*

Past Orion's belted splendour,
Past Capella, clear and tender ;
Lightening dusky Polar regions,
Brightening pale encircling legions ;
Lines of fiery glitter tracing,
Parting, meeting, interlacing ;
Paling every constellation
With their radiant revelation !
All we heard of meteor glory
Is a true and sober story ;
Who will not for life remember
This night grandeur of November ?

'Tis over now, the once-seen, dream-like sight !
With gradual hand the clear and breezy dawn
Hath o'er the marvels of the meteor night
A veil of light impenetrable drawn.
And earth is sweeping on through starless space,
Nor may we once look back, the shining field to trace.

Ere next the glittering stranger-throng we meet,
How many a star of life will seek the west !

* F

Our century's dying pulse will faintly beat ;
The toilers of to-day will be at rest ;
And little ones, who now but laugh and play,
Will weary in the heat and burden of the day.

Oh, is there nothing beautiful and glad
But bears a message of decay and change ?
So be it ! Though we call it stern and sad,
Viewed by the torch of Love, it is not strange.
'T is mercy that in Nature's *every* strain
Deep warning tones peal out, in solemn sweet refrain.

And have not all created things a voice
For those who listen farther,—whispers low
To bid the children of the light rejoice
In burning hopes they yet but dimly know ?
What will it be, all earthly darkness o'er,
To shine as stars of God for ever—evermore !



TREASURE TROVE.



PLAYED with the whispering rushes,
By a river of reverie,
Flowing so quietly onward
Into an unknown sea.

And I watched the dreamy current,
Till to my feet it brought,
Glistening among the pebbles,
The pearl of a fair new thought.

New ! yet many another,
Leaning over the stream,
May have welcomed its sudden shining,
And gazed on its gentle gleam.

Long it must have been lying,
Yet it is new to me.
Oh, the treasures around us,
If we could only see

I have broken the smooth dark water
 Into ripples and circles bright,
Lifting my pearl from the pebbles,
 Bearing away its light.

I am so glad to have found it!
 I shall treasure it safely awhile,
It will brighten the niche that is darkest
 In my spirit's loneliest aisle.

And then, it may be, a dear one
 Will wear it a long, long time,
Fastened firm on her bosom,
 In a setting of silver rhyme.



COMING SUMMER.



WHAT will the summer bring?
 Sunshine and flowers,
 Brightness and melody,
 Golden-voiced hours;
 Rose-gleaming mornings
 Vocal with praise;
 Crimson-flushed evenings,
 Nightingale lays.

What may the summer bring?
 Gladness and mirth,
 Laughter and song,
 For the children of earth;
 Smiles for the old man,
 Joy for the strong,
 Glee for the little ones
 All the day long.

What will the summer bring ?

Coolness and shade,

Eloquent stillness

In thicket and glade ;

Whispering breezes,

Fragrance oppressed ;

Lingering twilight

Soothing to rest.

What may the summer bring ?

Freshness and calm

To the care-worn and troubled,

Beauty and balm.

O toil-weary spirit,

Rest thee anew,

For the heat of the world-race

Summer hath dew !

What will the summer bring ?

Sultry noon hours,

Lurid horizons,

Frowning cloud-towers !

Loud-crashing thunders,
 Tempest and hail,
Death-bearing lightnings,
 It brings without fail.

What may the summer bring?
 Dimness and woe,
Blackness of sorrow
 Its bright days may know;
Flowers may be wormwood,
 Verdure a pall,
The shadow of death
 On the fairest may fall.

Is it not ever so?
 Where shall we find
Light that may cast
 No shadow behind?
Calm that no tempest
 May darkly await?
Joy that no sorrow
 May swiftly abate?

Will the story of summer
Be written in light,
Or traced in the darkness
Of storm-cloud and night?
We know not—we *would* not know;
Why should we quail?
Summer, we welcome thee!
Summer, all hail!



SEPTEMBER, 1868.



N April burst of beauty,
 And a May like the Mays of old,
 And a glow of summer gladness
 While June her long days told ;
 And a hush of golden silence
 All through the bright July,
 Without one peal of thunder,
 Or a storm-wreath in the sky ;
 And a fiery reign of August,
 Till the moon was on the wane ;
 And then short clouded evenings,
 And a long and chilling rain.
 I thought the summer was over,
 And the whole year's glory spent,
 And that nothing but fog and drizzle
 Could be for Autumn meant ;—
 Nothing but dead leaves, falling
 Wet on the dark, damp mould,

Less and less of the sunshine,
More and more of the cold.

But oh ! the golden day-time ;
And oh ! the silver nights ;
And the scarlet touch on the fir trunks
Of the calm, grand sunset lights ;
And the morning's bright revealings,
Lifting the pearly mist,
Like a bridal veil, from the valley
That the sun hath claimed and kissed ;
And oh ! the noontide shadows
Longer and longer now,
On the river margin resting,
Like the tress on a thoughtful brow.
Rich fruitage bends the branches
With amber, and rose, and gold,
O'er the purple and crimson asters,
And geraniums gay and bold.
The day is warm and glowing,
But the night is cool and sweet,
And we fear no smiting arrows
Of fierce and fatal heat.

The leaves are only dropping,
Like flakes of a sunset cloud,
And the robin's song is clearer
Than Spring's own minstrel-crowd.
A soft new robe of greenness
Decks every sunny mead,
And we own that bright September
Is beautiful indeed.

Is thy life-summer passing?
Think not thy joys are o'er!
Thou hast not seen what Autumn
For thee may have in store.
Calmer than breezy April,
Cooler than August blaze,
The fairest time of all may be
September's golden days.
Press on, though summer waneth,
And falter not, nor fear,
For God can make the Autumn
The glory of the year.



EARLY FAITH.



HOM hear we tell of all the joy which loving
 Faith can bring,
 The ever-widening glories reached on her
 strong seraph wing?
 Is it not oftenest they who long have wrestled with
 temptation,
 Or passed through fiery baptisms of mighty tribulation?

Perhaps, in life's great tapestry, the darkest scenes are
 where
 The golden threads of Faith glance forth most radiant
 and fair:
 And gazing on the coming years, which unknown griefs
 may bring,
 We hail the lamp which o'er them all shall heavenly
 lustre fling.

Thank God! there is at eventide a gleam of ruby light,
A star of love amid the gloom of sorrow's lingering
 night,
An ivy-wreath upon the tomb, a haven in the blast,
A staff for weary, trembling ones, when youth and
 health are past.

But shall we seek the diamonds in the lone and dusky
 mine,
When 'mid the sunny sands of *youth* they wait to flash
 and shine?
Neglect the fountain of Christ's joy till woe-streams
 darkly flow,
Nor seek a Father's smile until the world's cold frown
 we know?

Nay! be our faith the rosy crown on morn's unwrinkled
 brow,
The sparkling dewdrop on the grass, the blossom on
 the bough;
The gleam of pearly light within the snowy-bosomed
 shell;
An added power of loveliness in beauty's every spell.

Oh, let it be the sunlight of the pleasant summer hours,
That calls to pure and radiant birth unnumbered
 fragrant flowers ;
That bathes in golden joyance every anthem-murmur-
 ing tree,
And spreads a robe of glory o'er the silver-crested sea.

Oh, let it be the key-note of the symphony of gladness,
Which wots not of the broken lyre, the requiem of
 sadness :
For they who melodies of heaven in hours of brightness
 know,
Will modulate sweet harmony from earth's discordant
 woe.



OUR FATHER.

“  H, that I loved the Father
With depth of conscious love,
As steadfast, bright, and burning,
As seraphim above!

But how can I be deeming
Myself a loving child,
When here, and there, and everywhere,
My thoughts are wandering wild?

“ It is my chief desire
To know Him more and more,
To follow Him more fully
Than I have done before :
My eyes are dim with longing
To see the Lord above ;
But oh ! I fear from year to year,
I do not truly love.

“For when I try to follow
The mazes of my soul,
I find no settled fire of love
Illumining the whole;
'T is all uncertain twilight,
No clear and vivid glow:
Would I could bring to God my King
The perfect love I owe!”

The gift is great and holy,
'T will not be sought in vain;
But look up for a moment
From present doubt and pain,
And calmly tell me *how* you love
The dearest ones below?
“This love,” say you, “is deep and true!”
But tell me how you know?

How do you love your father?
“Oh, in a thousand ways!
I think there's no one like him,
So worthy of my praise.
I tell him all my troubles,
And ask him what to do;

I know that he will give to me
His counsel kind and true.

“ Then every little service
Of hand, or pen, or voice,
Becomes, if he has asked it,
The service of my choice.
And from my own desires
’Tis not so hard to part,
If once I know I follow so
His wiser will and heart.

“ I know the flush of pleasure
That o’er my spirit came,
When far from home with strangers,
They caught my father’s name ;
And for his sake the greeting
Was mutual and sweet,
For if they knew my father too,
How glad we were to meet !

“ And when I heard them praising
His music and his skill,

* G

His words of holy teaching,
Life-preaching, holier still,
How eagerly I listened
To every word that fell ;
'T was joy to hear that name so dear
Both known and loved so well.

“ Once I was ill and suffering
Upon a foreign shore,
And longed to see my father,
As I never longed before.
He came : his arm around me ;
I leant upon his breast,
I did not long to feel more strong,
So sweet that childlike rest.

“ The thought of home is pleasant,
Yet I should hardly care
To leave my present fair abode,
Unless I knew him there.
All other love and pleasure
Can never crown the place,
A home to me it cannot be
Without my father's face.”

This is no fancy drawing,
But every line is true,
And you have traced as strong a love
As ever daughter knew.
But though its fond expression
Is rather lived than told,
You do not say from day to day,
"I fear my love is cold!"

You do not think about it;
'Tis never in your thought—
"I wonder if I love him
As deeply as I ought?
I know his approbation
Outweighs all other meed,
That his employ is always joy,
But do I love indeed?"

Now let your own words teach you
The higher, holier claim
Of Him, who condescends to bear
A Father's gracious name.
No mystic inspiration,
No throbbings forced and wild

He asks, but just the loving trust
Of a glad and grateful child.

The rare and precious moments
Of realising thrill
Are but love's blissful blossom,
To brighten, not to fill
The storehouse and the garner
With ripe and pleasant fruit;
And not alone by these is shewn
The true and holy root.

What if your own dear father
Were summoned to his rest !
One lives, by whom that bitterest grief
Could well be soothed and blessed.
Like balm upon your sharpest woe
His still small voice would fall ;
His touch would heal, you could not feel
That you had lost your all.

But what if He, the Lord of life,
Could ever pass away?
What if *His* name were blotted out,
And you could know to-day

There was *no* heavenly Father,
No Saviour dear and true,
No throne of grace, no resting place,
No living God for you!

We need not dwell in horror
On what can never be,
Such endless desolation,
Such undreamt misery.
Our reason could not bear it,
And all the love of earth,
In fullest bliss, compared with this,
Were nothing, *nothing* worth.

Then bring your poor affection,
And try it by this test;
The hidden depth is fathomed,
You see you love Him *best*!
'Tis but a feeble echo
Of His great love to you,
Yet in His ear each note is dear,
Its harmony is true.

It is an uncut jewel,
All earth-encrusted now,
But He will make it glorious,
And set it on His brow :
'Tis but a tiny glimmer,
Lit from the light above,
But it shall blaze through endless days,
A star of perfect love.



DISAPPOINTMENT.



UR yet unfinished story
 Is tending all to this :
 To God the greatest glory,
 To us the greatest bliss.

If all things work together
 For ends so grand and blest,
 What need to wonder whether
 Each in itself is best !

If some things were omitted
 Or altered as we would,
 The whole might be unfitted
 To work for perfect good.

Our plans may be disjointed,
 But we may calmly rest;
 What God has once appointed
 Is better than our best.

We cannot see before us,
But our all-seeing Friend
Is always watching o'er us,
And knows the very end.

What though we seem to stumble,
He will not let us fall ;
And learning to be humble
Is not lost time at all.

What though we fondly reckoned
A smoother way to go
Than where His hand has beckoned,
It will be better so.

What only seemed a barrier
A stepping-stone shall be ;
Our God is no long tarrier,
A present help is He.

And when amid our blindness
His disappointments fall,
We trust His loving kindness
Whose wisdom sends them all.

They are the purple fringes
That hide His glorious feet ;
They are the fire-wrought hinges
Where truth and mercy meet ;

By them the golden portal
Of Providence shall ope,
And lift to praise immortal
The songs of faith and hope.

From broken alabaster
Was deathless fragrance shed,
The spikenard flowed the faster
Upon the Saviour's head.

No shattered box of ointment
We ever need regret,
For out of disappointment
Flow sweetest odours yet.

The discord that involveth
Some startling change of key,
The Master's hand resolveth
In richest harmony.

We hush our children's laughter,
When sunset hues grow pale ;
Then, in the silence after,
They hear the nightingale.

We mourned the lamp declining,
That glimmered at our side;—
The glorious starlight shining
Has proved a surer guide.

Then tremble not and shrink not
When Disappointment nears ;
Be trustful still, and think not
To realise all fears.

While we are meekly kneeling,
We shall behold her rise,
Our Father's love revealing,
An angel in disguise.



THE SONG CHALICE.

“OU bear the chalice.” Is it so, my friend ?
 Have I indeed a chalice of sweet song,
 With underflow of harmony made strong
 New calm of strength through throbbing veins
 to send ?

I did not form or fill,—I do but spend
 That which the Master poured into my soul,
 His dewdrops caught in a poor earthen bowl,
 That service so with praise might meekly blend.
 May He who taught the morning stars to sing,
 Aye keep my chalice cool, and pure, and sweet,
 And grant me so with loving hand to bring
 Refreshment to His weary ones,—to meet
 Their thirst with water from God’s music-spring ;
 And, bearing thus, to pour it at His feet.

SILENT IN LOVE

“HE WILL REST* IN HIS LOVE.”

OVE culminates in bliss when it doth reach
 A white, unflickering, fear-consuming glow ;
 And, knowing it is known as it doth know,
 Needs no assuring word or soothing speech.
 It craves but silent nearness, so to rest,
 No sound, no movement, love not heard but felt,
 Longer and longer still, till time should melt,
 A snow-flake on the eternal ocean's breast.
 Have moments of this silence starred thy past,
 Made memory a glory-haunted place,
 Taught all the joy that mortal ken can trace ?
 By greater light 't is but a shadow cast ;—
 So shall the Lord thy God rejoice o'er thee,
 And in His love will rest, and silent be.

* Marginal reading—“*be silent.*”

LIGHT AND SHADE.



LIGHT! emblem of all good and joy!
 Shade! emblem of all ill!
 And yet in this strange mingled life,
 We need the shadow still.
 A lamp with softly shaded light,
 To soothe and spare the tender sight,
 Will only throw
 A brighter glow
 Upon our books and work below.

We could not bear unchanging day,
 However fair its light;
 Ere long the wearied eye would hail,
 As boon untold, the evening pale,
 The solace of the night.
 And who would prize our summer glow
 If winter gloom we did not know?

Or rightly praise
The glad spring rays
Who never saw our rainy days ?

How grateful in Arabian plain
Of white and sparkling sand,
The shadow of a mighty rock
Across the weary land.
And where the tropic glories rise,
Responsive to the fiery skies,
We could not dare
To meet the glare,
Or blindness were our bitter share.

Where is the soul so meek and pure,
Who through his earthly days
Life's fullest sunshine could endure,
In clear and cloudless blaze !
The sympathetic eye would dim,
And others pine unmarked by him,
Were no chill shade
Around him laid,
And light of joy could never fade.

He, who the light-commanding word
 Erst spake, and formed the eye,
 Knows what that wondrous eye can bear,
 And tempers with providing care,
 By cloud and night, all hurtful glare,
 By shadows ever nigh.
 So in all wise and loving ways
 He blends the shadows of our days,
 To win our sight
 From scenes of night,
 To seek the "True and Only Light."

We need some shadow o'er our bliss,
 Lest we forget the Giver :
 So, often in our deepest joy
 There comes a solemn quiver ;
 We could not tell from whence it came,
 The subtle cause we cannot name ;
 Its twilight fall
 May well recall
 Calm thought of Him who gave us all.

There are who all undazzled tread
 Awhile the sunniest plain ;

But they have sought the blessed shade
By one great Rock of Ages made,

A sure, safe rest to gain.

Unshaded light of earth soon blinds
To light of heaven sincerest minds :

O envy not

A cloudless lot !

We ask indeed we know not what.

So is it here, so is it now !

Not always will it be !

There is a land that needs no shade,
A morn will rise which cannot fade,
And we, like flame-robed angels made,

That glory soon may see.

No cloud upon its radiant joy,
No shadow o'er its bright employ,

No sleep, no night,

But perfect sight,

The Lord our Everlasting Light.



NO THORN WITHOUT A ROSE.

“ HERE is no rose without a thorn!”
 Who has not found this true,
 And known that griefs of gladness born
 Our footsteps still pursue!

That in the grandest harmony
 The strangest discords rise;
 The brightest bow we only trace
 Upon the darkest skies!

No thornless rose! So, more and more,
 Our pleasant hopes are laid
 Where waves this sable legend o'er
 A still sepulchral shade.

But Faith and Love, with angel-might,
 Break up life's dismal tomb,
 Transmuting into golden light
 The words of leaden gloom.

Reversing all this funeral pall,
White raiment they disclose ;
Their happy song floats full and long,
"No thorn without a rose !"

"No shadow, but its sister light
Not far away must burn !
No weary night, but morning bright
Shall follow in its turn.

"No chilly snow, but safe below
A million buds are sleeping ;
No wintry days, but fair spring rays
Are swiftly onward sweeping.

"With fiercest glare of summer air
Comes fullest leafy shade ;
And ruddy fruit bends every shoot,
Because the blossoms fade.

"No note of sorrow but shall melt
In sweetest chord unguessed ;
No labour all too pressing felt,
But ends in quiet rest.

“No sigh but from the harps above
Soft echoing tones shall win ;
No heart-wound but the Lord of Love
Shall pour His comfort in.

“No withered hope, while loving best
Thy Father’s chosen way ;
No anxious care, for He will bear
Thy burdens every day.

“Thy claim to rest on Jesu’s breast
All weariness shall be,
And pain thy portal to His heart
Of boundless sympathy.

“No conflict, but the King’s own hand
Shall end the glorious strife ;
No death, but leads thee to the land
Of everlasting life.”

Sweet seraph voices, Faith and Love !
Sing on within our hearts
This strain of music from above,
Till we have learnt our parts :

Until we see your alchemy
On all that years disclose,
And, taught by you, still find it true,
“No thorn without a rose!”



YESTERDAY, TO-DAY, AND FOR EVER.

A GREEK ACROSTIC, THRICE TRIPLED.

*Asl.**



H! the weary cares and fears,
E arnest yearnings through the years!
I s it not a vale of tears!

A h! the love we gladly greet
E ver now is incomplete;
I f the melody be sweet,
A nd the harmony be true,
E arlier loss is more in view,
I ll forebodings shadow through.

A fter wintry frost and rime,
E ven now, the heavenly chime
I s a pledge of summer time.

* For ever.

A nchorage within the veil,
E ver steadfast, cannot fail,
I f the wildest storms assail.

A ngel songs of love are clearer,
E arth is brighter, death is dearer,
I f the heavenly home be nearer.

A ll in perfect union brought,
E very link which *God* has wrought
I n the chains of loving thought :

A ll our dear ones, far asunder,
E ach shall join the anthem-thunder
I n our future joy and wonder.

A ll shall come where nought shall sever,
E ndless meeting, parting never,
I n God's house to dwell for ever.



CHRIST'S RECALL.

RETURN!

O wanderer from My side!

Soon droops each blossom of the darkening wild,
Soon melts each meteor which thy steps beguiled,
Soon is the cistern dry which thou hast hewn,
And thou wilt weep in bitterness full soon.
Return! ere gathering night shall shroud the way
Thy footsteps yet may tread, in this accepted day.

Return!

O erring, yet beloved!

I wait to bind thy bleeding feet, for keen
And rankling are the thorns where thou hast been;
I wait to give thee pardon, love, and rest;
Is not My joy to see thee safe and blest?
Return! I wait to hear once more thy voice,
To welcome thee anew, and bid thy heart rejoice.

Return !

O fallen, yet not lost !

Canst thou forget the life for thee laid down,
The taunts, the scourging, and the thorny crown ?
When o'er thee first My spotless robe I spread,
And poured the oil of joy upon thy head,
How did thy wakening heart within thee burn !
Canst thou remember all, and wilt thou not return ?

Return !

O chosen of My love !

Fear not to meet thy beckoning Saviour's view ;
Long ere I called thee by thy name, I knew
That very treacherously thou wouldst deal ;
Now I have seen thy ways, yet I will heal.
Return ! Wilt thou yet linger far from Me ?
My wrath is turned away, I have redeemed thee.



FAITH'S QUESTION.

 O whom, O Saviour, shall we go
 For life, and joy, and light?
 No help, no comfort from below,
 No lasting gladness we may know,
 No hope may bless our sight.
 Our souls are weary and athirst,
 But earth is iron-bound and cursed,
 And nothing she may yield can stay
 The restless yearnings day by day;
 Yet, without *Thee*, Redeemer blest,
 We *would* not, if we *could*, find rest.

To whom, O Saviour, shall we go?
 We gaze around in vain.
 Though pleasure's fairy lute be strung,
 And mirth's enchaining lay be sung,
 We dare not trust the strain.

The touch of sorrow or of sin
Hath saddened all, without, within ;
What here we fondly love and prize,
However beauteous be its guise,
Has passed, is passing, or may pass,
Like frost-fringe on the autumn grass.

To whom, O Saviour, shall we go ?
Our spirits dimly wait
In the dungeon of our mortal frame ;
And only one of direful name
Can force its sin-barred gate.
Our loved ones can but greet us through
The prison grate, from which we view
All outward things. They enter not :
Thou, Thou alone, canst cheer our lot.
O Christ, we long for Thee to dwell
Within our solitary cell !

To whom, O Saviour, shall we go ?
Unless Thy voice we hear
All tuneless falls the sweetest song,
And lonely seems the busiest throng
Unless we feel Thee near.

We dare not think what earth would be,
Thou Heaven-Creator, but for Thee ;
A howling chaos, wild and dark—
One flood of horror, while no ark,
Upborne above the gloom-piled wave,
From one great death-abyss might save.

To whom, O Saviour, shall we go ;
 The Tempter's power is great ;
E'en in our hearts is evil bound,
And, lurking stealthily around,
 Still for our souls doth wait.
Thou tempted One, whose suffering heart,
In all our sorrows bore a part,
Whose life-blood only could atone,
Too weak are we to stand alone ;
And nothing but Thy shield of light
Can guard us in the dreaded fight.

To whom, O Saviour, shall we go ?
 The night of death draws near ;
Its shadow must be passed alone,
No friend can with our souls go down
 The untried way to cheer.

Thou hast the words of endless life;
Thou givest victory in the strife;
Thou only art the changeless Friend,
On whom for aye we may depend:
In life, in death, alike we flee,
O Saviour of the world, to **THEE**.



"I DID THIS FOR THEE! WHAT HAST THOU
DONE FOR ME?"

*(Motto placed under a Picture of our Saviour in the Study of a
German Divine.)*



GAVE My life for thee,	Gal. ii. 20.
My precious blood I shed,	1 Pet. i. 19.
That thou might'st ransomed	
be,	Eph. i. 7.
And quickened from the dead.	Eph. ii. 1.
I gave My life for thee ;	Tit. ii. 14.
What hast thou given for Me ?	John xxi. 15-17.
I spent long years for thee	1 Tim. i. 15.
In weariness and woe,	Isa. liii. 3.
That an eternity	John xvii. 24.
Of joy thou mightest know.	John xvi. 22.
I spent long years for thee ;	John i. 10, 11.
Hast thou spent <i>one</i> for Me ?	1 Pet. iv. 2.
My Father's home of light,	John xvii. 5.
My rainbow-circled throne,	Rev. iv. 3.

I left, for earthly night, For wanderings sad and lone. I left it all for thee; Hast thou left aught for Me?	Phil. ii. 7. Matt. v. ii. 20. 2 Cor. viii. 9. Luke x. 29.
I suffered much for thee, More than thy tongue may tell, Of bitterest agony, To rescue thee from hell. I suffered much for thee; What canst thou bear for Me?	Isa. liii. 5. Matt. xxvi. 39. Luke xxi. 44. Rom. v. 9. 1 Pet. ii. 21-24. Rom. viii. 17, 18.
And I have brought to thee, Down from My home above, Salvation full and free, My pardon and My love. Great gifts I brought to thee; What hast thou brought to Me?	John iv. 10, 14. John iii. 13. Rev. xxi. 6. Acts v. 31. Ps. lxxviii. 18. Rom. xii. 1.
Oh, let thy life be given, Thy years for Him be spent, World-fetters all be riven, And joy with suffering blent; I gave Myself for thee: Give thou <i>thyself</i> to Me!	Rom. vi. 13. 2 Cor. v. 15. Phil. iii. 8. 1 Pet. iv. 13-14. Eph. v. 2. Prov. xxiii. 26.

ISAIAH XXXIII. 17.



THINE eyes shall see! Yes, thine, who, blind
erewhile,

Now trembling towards the new-found light
dost flee,

Leave doubting, and look up with trustful smile—

Thine eyes shall see!

Thine eyes shall see! Not in some dream Elysian,

Not in thy fancy, glowing though it be,

Not e'en in faith, but in unveilèd vision,

Thine eyes shall see!

Thine eyes shall see! Not on thyself depend

God's promises, the faithful, firm, and free;

Ere they shall fail, earth, heaven itself, must end:

Thine eyes shall see!

Thine eyes shall *see* ! Not in a swift glance cast,
Gleaning one ray to brighten memory,
But while a glad eternity shall last,
Thine eyes shall *see* !

Thine eyes shall see *the* King ! The very same
Whose love shone forth upon the curseful tree,
Who bore thy guilt, who calleth thee by name ;
Thine eyes shall see !

Thine eyes shall see the *King* ! the mighty One,
The many-crowned, the Light-enrobed ; and He
Shall bid thee share the kingdom He hath won,
Thine eyes shall see !

And in *His beauty* ! Stay thee, mortal song,
The “altogether lovely” One must be
Unspeakable in glory,—yet ere long
Thine eyes shall see !

Yes ! though the land be “very far” away,
A step, a moment, ends the toil for thee ;
Then, changing grief for gladness, night for day,
Thine eyes shall see !

GOD THE PROVIDER.

“My God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”



WHO shall tell our untold need,
 Deeply felt, though scarcely known!
 Who the hungering soul can feed,
 Guard, and guide, but God alone?
 Blessed promise! while we see
 Earthly friends must powerless be,
 Earthly fountains quickly dry:
 “God” shall all your need supply.

He hath said it! so we know
 Nothing less can we receive.
 Oh that thankful love may glow
 While we restfully believe,—
 Ask not *how*, but trust Him still;
 Ask not *when*, but wait His will:
 Simply on His word rely,
 God “*shall*” all your need supply.

Through the whole of life's long way,
 Outward, inward, need we trace ;
Need arising day by day,
 Patience, wisdom, strength, and grace.
Needing Jesus most of all,
Full of need, on Him we call ;
Then how gracious His reply,
God shall "*all*" your need supply.

Great our need, but greater far
 Is our Father's loving power ;
He upholds each mighty star,
 He unfolds each tiny flower.
He who numbers every hair,
Earnest of His faithful care,
Gave His Son for us to die ;
God shall all "*your*" need supply.

Yet we often vainly plead
 For a fancied good denied,
What we deemed a pressing need
 Still remaining unsupplied.
Yet from dangers all concealed,
Thus our wisest Friend doth shield ;

No *good* thing will He deny,
God shall all your "*need*" supply.

Can we count redemption's treasure,
Scan the glory of God's love ?
Such shall be the boundless measure
Of His blessings from above.

All we ask or think, and more,
He will give in bounteous store ;
He can fill and satisfy,
God shall all your need "*supply*."*

One the channel, deep and broad,
From the Fountain of the Throne,
Christ the Saviour, Son of God,
Blessings flow through Him alone.
He, the Faithful and the True,
Brings us mercies ever new ;
Till we reach His home on high,
"*God shall all your need supply.*"

* The Greek word is much stronger than the English,—
πληρώσει—"will supply to the full," "fill up," "satisfy."

WAIT PATIENTLY FOR HIM.


 OD doth not bid thee wait
 To disappoint at last;
 A golden promise, fair and gr
 In precept-mould is cast.
 Soon shall the morning gild
 The dark horizon-rim,
 Thy heart's desire shall be fulfilled,
 " *Wait* patiently for Him."

The weary waiting times
 Are but the muffled peals
 Low preluding celestial chimes,
 That hail His chariot wheels.
 Trust Him to tune thy voice
 To blend with seraphim;
 His "Wait" shall issue in "Rejoice!"
 " *Wait* *patiently* for Him."

He doth not bid thee wait,
Like drift-wood on the wave,
For fickle chance or fixèd fate
To ruin or to save.
Thine eyes shall surely see,
No distant hope or dim,
The Lord thy God arise for thee :
“Wait patiently *for Him.*”



THIS SAME JESUS.

Acts i. 11.

“ HIS same Jesus!” Oh! how sweetly
 Fall those words upon the ear,
 Like a swell of far off music,
 In a nightwatch still and drear.

He who healed the hopeless leper,
 He who dried the widow's tear;
 He who changed to health and gladness
 Helpless suffering, trembling fear;

He who wandered, poor and homeless,
 By the stormy Galilee;
 He who on the night-robed mountain
 Bent in prayer the wearied knee;

He who spake as none had spoken,
 Angel-wisdom far above,

All-forgiving, ne'er upbraiding,
Full of tenderness and love ;

He who gently called the weary,
"Come and I will give you rest!"
He who loved the little children,
Took them in His arms and blest ;

He, the lonely Man of Sorrows,
'Neath our sin-curse bending low ;
By His faithless friends forsaken
In the darkest hours of woe ;—

"This *same* Jesus !" When the vision
Of that last and awful day
Bursts upon the prostrate spirit,
Like a midnight lightning ray ;

When, else dimly apprehended,
All its terrors seem revealed,
Trumpet-knell and fiery heavens,
And the books of doom unsealed ;

Then, we lift our hearts adoring
 “ This same Jesus,” loved and known,
Him, our own most gracious Saviour,
 Seated on the great white Throne ;

He Himself, and “ not another,”
 He for whom our heart-love yearned
Through long years of twilight waiting,
 To His ransomed ones returned !

For this word, O Lord, we bless Thee,
 Bless our Master’s changeless name ;
Yesterday, to-day, for ever,
 Jesus Christ is still the Same.



MARY'S BIRTHDAY.

SHE is at rest,
In God's own presence blest,
Whom, while with us, this day we loved to greet;
Her birthdays o'er,
She counts the years no more ;
Time's footfall is not heard along the golden street.

When we would raise
A hymn of birthday praise,
The music of our hearts is faint and low ;
Fear, doubt, and sin
Make dissonance within ;
And pure soul-melody no child of earth may know.

That strange " new song,"
Amid a white-robed throng,
Is gushing from her harp in living tone ;

Her seraph voice,
Tuned only to rejoice,
Floats upward to the emerald-archèd throne.*

No passing cloud
Her loveliness may shroud,
The beauty of her youth may never fade ;
No line of care
Her sealèd brow may wear,
The joy-gleam of her eye no dimness e'er may shade.

No stain is there
Upon the robes they wear,
Within the gates of pearl which she hath passed ;
Like woven light,
All beautiful and bright,
Eternity upon those robes no shade may cast.

No sin-born thought
May in that home be wrought,
To trouble the clear fountain of her heart ;
No tear, no sigh,
No pain, no death, be nigh
Where she hath entered in, no more to " know in part."

* Rev. iv. 3.

Her faith is sight,
Her hope is full delight,
The shadowy veil of time is rent in twain :
Her untold bliss—
What thought can follow this !
To her to live was Christ, to die indeed is gain.

Her eyes have seen
The King, no veil between,
In blood-dipped vesture gloriously arrayed :
No earth-breathed haze
Can dim that rapturous gaze ;
She sees Him face to face on whom her guilt was laid.

A little while, .
And they whose loving smile
Had melted 'neath the touch of lonely woe,
Shall reach her home,
Beyond the star-built dome ;
Her anthem they shall swell, her joy they too shall
know.



DAILY STRENGTH.

“ thy day thy strength shall be !”
 This should be enough for thee ;
 He who knows thy frame will spare
 Burdens more than thou canst bear.

When thy days are veiled in night,
 Christ shall give thee heavenly light ;
 Seem they wearisome and long,
 Yet in Him thou shalt be strong.

Cold and wintry though they prove,
 Thine the sunshine of His love ;
 Or, with fervid heat oppressed,
 In His shadow thou shalt rest.

When thy days on earth are past,
 Christ shall call thee home at last,
 His redeeming love to praise,
 Who hath strengthened all thy days.

THE RIGHT WAY.

ORD, is it still the right way, though I cannot
see Thy face,

Though I do not feel Thy presence and Thine
all-sustaining grace?

Can even this be leading through the bleak and sunless
wild

To the City of Thy holy rest, the mansions undefiled?

Lord, is it still the right way? A while ago I passed
Where every step seemed thornier and harder than the
last.

Where bitterest disappointment and inly aching sorrow
Carved day by day a weary cross, renewed with every
morrow?

The heaviest end of that strange cross I knew was laid
on Thee,

So I could still press on, secure of Thy deep sympathy;

Our upward path may well be steep, else how were
patience tried!

I knew it was the right way, for it led me to Thy side.

But now I wait alone amid dim shadows dank and chill;
All moves and changes round me, but I seem standing
still;

Or every feeble footstep I urge towards the light
Seems but to lead me farther into the silent night.

I cannot hear Thy voice, Lord! dost Thou still hear my
cry?

I cling to Thine assurance that Thou art ever nigh;
I know that Thou art faithful; I trust, but cannot see
That it is still the right way by which Thou leadest
me.

I think I could go forward with brave and joyful
heart,

Though every step should pierce me with unknown fiery
smart,

If only I might see Thee, if I might gaze above
On all the cloudless glory of the sunshine of Thy love.

Is it really leading onwards? When the shadows flee
away,

Shall I find this path has brought me more near to
perfect day?

Or am I left to wander thus that I may stretch my hand
To some still wearier traveller in this same shadow-
land?

Is this Thy chosen training for some future task un-
known?

Is it that I may learn to rest upon Thy word alone?
Whate'er it be, oh! leave me not, fulfil Thou every
hour

The purpose of Thy goodness, and the work of faith
with power.

I lay my prayer before Thee, and, trusting in Thy word,
Though all is silence in my heart, I know that Thou
hast heard.

To that blest City lead me, Lord, (still choosing all my
way),

Where faith melts into vision as the starlight into day.

THY WILL BE DONE.

“Understanding *what* the will of the Lord is.”—EPH. v. 17.



ITH quivering heart and trembling will
 The word hath passed Thy lips,
 Within the shadow, cold and still,
 Of some fair joy's eclipse.
 “Thy will be done!” Thy God hath heard,
 And He will crown that faith-framed word.

Thy prayer shall be fulfilled : but how ?
 His thoughts are not as thine ;
 While thou wouldst only weep and bow,
 He saith, “ Arise and shine ! ”
 Thy thoughts were all of grief and night,
 But His of boundless joy and light.

Thy Father reigns supreme above :
 The glory of His name

Is Grace and Wisdom, Truth and Love,
 His will must be the same.
 And thou hast asked all joys in one,
 In whispering forth, "Thy will be done."

His will—each soul to sanctify
 Redeeming might hath won;¹
 His will—that thou shouldst never die,
 Believing on His Son;²
 His will—that thou, through earthly strife,
 Shouldst rise to everlasting life.³

That one unchanging song of praise
 Should from our hearts arise;⁴
 That we should know His wondrous ways,
 Though hidden from the wise;⁵
 That we, so sinful and so base,
 Should know the glory of His grace.⁶

His will—to grant the yearning prayer
 For dear ones far away,⁷

¹ 1 Thess. iv. 3.

⁴ 1 Thess. v. 18.

⁶ Eph. i. 5, 6, 11, 12.

² John vi. 40.

⁵ Matt. xi. 25, 26.

⁷ 1 John v. 14-16.

³ John vi. 39.

That they His grace and love may share,
And tread His pleasant way;
That in the Father and the Son
All perfect we may be in one.¹

His will—the little flock to bring
Into His royal fold,
To reign for ever with their King,²
His beauty to behold.³
Sin's fell dominion crushed for aye,
Sorrow and sighing fled away.

This thou hast asked! And shall the prayer,
Float upward on a sigh?
No song were sweet enough to bear
Such glad desires on high!
But God Thy Father shall fulfil,
In thee and for thee, all His will.

¹ John xvii. 23, 24.² Luke xii. 32.³ Isa. xxxiii. 17.

"THE THINGS WHICH ARE BEHIND."

EAVE behind earth's empty pleasure,
 Fleeting hope and changeful love;
 Leave its soon-corroding treasure:
 There are better things above.

Leave, oh, leave thy fond aspirings,
 Bid thy restless heart be still;
 Cease, oh cease, thy vain desirings,
 Only seek thy Father's will.

Leave behind thy faithless sorrow,
 And thine every anxious care;
 He who only knows the morrow
 Can for thee its burden bear.

Leave behind the doubting spirit,
 And thy crushing load of sin;
 By thy mighty Saviour's merit,
 Life eternal thou shalt win.

Leave the darkness gathering o'er thee,
Leave the shadow-land behind ;
Realms of glory lie before thee ;
Enter in, and welcome find.



"NOW I SEE."

JOHN IX. 25.

"OW I see!" But not the parting
Of the melting earth and sky,
Not a vision dread and startling,
Forcing one despairing cry.

But I see the solemn saying,
All have sinned and all must die,
Holy precepts disobeying,
Guilty all the world must lie.
Bending, silenced, to the dust,
Now I see that God is just.

"Now I see!" But not the glory,
Not the face of Him I love,
Not the full and burning story
Of the mysteries above.

But I see what God hath spoken,
How His well-belovèd Son
Kept the laws which man hath broken,
Died for sins which man hath done ;
Dying, rising, throned above !
“ Now I see ” that God is Love.



EVERLASTING LOVE.

“Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, *therefore* with loving-kindness have I drawn thee.” “No man can come to Me except the Father which hath sent Me draw him.”

“OD'S everlasting love! What wouldst thou more?”

O true and tender friend, well hast thou spoken.

My heart was restless, weary, sad, and sore,
And longed and listened for some heaven-sent token :
And, like a child that knows not why it cried,
'Mid God's full promises it moaned, “Unsatisfied!”

Yet there it stands. O love surpassing thought,
So bright, so grand, so clear, so true, so glorious ;
Love infinite, love tender, love unsought,
Love changeless, love rejoicing, love victorious !
And this great love for us in boundless store :
God's everlasting love ! What would we more !

Yes, one thing more ! To know it ours indeed,
To add the conscious joy of full possession.
O tender grace that stoops to every need !
This everlasting love hath found expression
In loving-kindness, which hath gently drawn
The heart that else astray too willingly had gone.

From no less fountain such a stream could flow,
No other root could yield so fair a flower ;
Had He not loved, He had not drawn us so,
Had He not drawn, we had nor will nor power
To rise, to come ;—the Saviour had passed by
Where we in blindness sat without one care or cry.

We thirst for *God*, our treasure *is* above,
Earth has no gift our one desire to meet,
And that desire is pledge of His own love.
Sweet question ; with no answer ! oh *how* sweet !
My heart in chiming gladness o'er and o'er
Sings on ;—" God's everlasting love ! What wouldst
thou more ?"



“MASTER, SAY ON!

 MASTER, speak! Thy servant heareth,
 Waiting for Thy gracious word,
 Longing for Thy voice that cheereth;
 Master! let it now be heard.

I am listening, Lord, for Thee;
 What hast Thou to say to me?

Master, speak in love and power:
 Crown the mercies of the day,
 In this quiet evening hour
 Of the moonrise o'er the bay,
 With the music of Thy voice;
 Speak! and bid Thy child rejoice.

Often through my heart is pealing
 Many another voice than Thine,
 Many an unwilling echo stealing
 From the walls of this Thy shrine:

Let Thy longed-for accents fall ;
Master, speak ! and silence all.

Master, speak ! I do not doubt Thee,
Though so tearfully I plead ;
Saviour, Shepherd ! Oh, without Thee
Life would be a blank indeed !
But I long for fuller light,
Deeper love, and clearer sight.

Resting on the " faithful saying,"
Trusting what Thy gospel saith,
On thy written promise staying
All my hope in life and death,
Yet I long for something more
From Thy love's exhaustless store.

Speak to me by name, O Master,
Let me *know* it is to me ;
Speak, that I may follow faster,
With a step more firm and free,
Where the Shepherd leads the flock,
In the shadow of the Rock.

Master, speak! I kneel before Thee,
Listening, longing, waiting still;
Oh, how long shall I implore Thee
This petition to fulfil!
Hast Thou not not one word for me
Must my prayer unanswered be?

Master, speak! Though least and lowest,
Let me not unheard depart;
Master, speak! for oh, Thou knowest
All the yearning of my heart,
Knowest all its truest need;
Speak! and make me blest indeed.

Master, speak! and make me ready,
When Thy voice is truly heard,
With obedience glad and steady
Still to follow every word.
I am listening, Lord, for Thee;
Master, speak, oh, speak to me!



REMOTE RESULTS.



HERE are the countless crystals,
 So perfect and so bright,
 That robed in softest ermine
 The winter day and night?
 Not lost! for, life to many a root,
 They rise again in flower and fruit.

Where are the mighty forests,
 And giant ferns of old,
 That in primeval silence
 Strange leaf and frond unrolled?
 Not lost! for now they shine and blaze,
 The light and warmth of Christmas days.

Where are our early lessons,
 The teachings of our youth,
 The countless words forgotten
 Of knowledge and of truth?

Not lost ! for they are living still,
As power to think, and do, and will.

Where is the seed we scatter,
With weak and trembling hand,
Beside the gloomy waters,
Or on the arid land ?
Not lost ! for after many days
Our prayer and toil shall turn to praise.

Where are the days of sorrow,
And lonely hours of pain,
When work is interrupted,
Or planned and willed in vain ?
Not lost ! it is the thorniest shoot
That bears the Master's pleasant fruit.

Where, where are all God's lessons,
His teachings dark or bright ?
Not lost ! but only hidden,
Till, in eternal light,
We see, while at his feet we fall,
The reasons and results of all.

ON THE LAST LEAF.*

FINISHED at last!

Yet for five years past
 My book on the dusty shelf hath lain,
 And I hardly thought that ever again
 My thoughts would follow the pleasant chime
 Of musical measure and ringing rhyme.

I remember well when I laid it by,
 Closed with a sort of requiem sigh.
 Spring in her beauty had swept along,
 And left my spirit all full of song;
 The wakening depths of my heart were stirred,
 Voices within and without I heard,
 Whispering me
 That I might be
 A messenger of peace and pleasure;
 That in my careless minstrelsy
 Lay something of poetic treasure;

* Written at the close of a manuscript volume.

Which, wrought with care, I yet some day
At all my loved ones' feet might lay.

Perhaps 't was a vain and foolish dream,
A fancy-lit, illusive gleam !
And yet I cannot quite believe
That such bright impulse could deceive.
I felt I had so much to say,
Such pleasant thoughts from day to day,
Sang, lark-like, with each morning ray,
Or murmured low in twilight grey,

Like distant curfew pealing.

And then, for each, fair Fancy brought
A robe of language ready wrought,
The smile of every wingèd thought

Half veiling, half revealing.

And I only waited, with longing gaze,
For the golden leisure of summer days,
Which I thought to crown with happiest lays.

God thought not so ! Ah no, He knew
There was other work for me to do,
There were other lessons for me to learn :
Another voice fell, low and stern,
Upon the too-reluctant ear.

Before the solemn voice of Pain
My visions fled, nor came again,
With all their glad and lovely train,
My summer-tide to cheer.

Well is it when, at high command
Of wisest Love, she takes her stand
At the heart's busy portal,
And warns away each noisy guest
Whose presence chases calm and rest,
Our powers, the brightest and the best,
Proclaiming weak and mortal.
That so the way may be more clear
For Him, the Prince of Peace, to come,
That which is left all void and drear
To make His palace and His home.

And so the song of my heart was hushed,
And the chiming thoughts were stilled :
Summer flew by, but the hope was crushed,
Swiftly onward my life-tide rushed,
But my book remained unfilled.
For an aching head and a weary frame,
Poetry is but an empty name.

Yet I am sure it was better so,
I *trusted* then, and now I *know*.

For ever, I think, the gift is fled
Which once I fancied mine :
So be it ! A "name" is not for me ;
Loving and loved I would rather be,
With power to cheer and sympathise,
Bearing new light for tear-dimmed eyes ;
But I do not care to shine.

So if aught I write may tend to this,
My fairest hope of earthly bliss,
Content with humblest rhyme I'll be ;
And, striving less and trusting more,
All simple, earnest thoughts outpour,
Such as my God may give to me.



HOW SHOULD THEY KNOW ME?



HERE are those who deem they know me
well,

And smile as I tell them "nay!"

Who think they may clearly and carelessly tell
Each living drop in my heart's deep well,
And lightly enter its inmost cell;

But little (how little!) know they!

How should they know me? My soul is a maze

Where I wander alone, alone;

Never a footfall there was heard,

Never a mortal hand hath stirred

The silence-curtain that hangs between

Outer and inner, nor eye hath seen

What is only and ever my own.

They have entered indeed the vestibule,
For its gate is opened wide,
High as the roof, and I welcome all
Who will visit my warm reception-hall,
And utter a long and loving call
To some who are yet outside.

I would lead each guest to a place of rest;
All should be calm and bright;
Then a lulling flow of melody,
And a crystal draught of sympathy,
And odorous blossoms of kindly thought,
With golden fruit of deed, be brought
From the chambers out of sight.

Some I would take with a cordial hand,
And lead them round the walls;
Shewing them many a storied screen,
Many a portrait, many a scene,
Deep-cut carving, and outlined scroll;
Passing quickly where shadows roll,
Slowly where sunshine falls.

They do not know and they cannot see
That strong-hinged, low-arched door,

Though I am passing in and out,
From gloom within to light without,
Or from gloom without to light within ;
None can ever an entrance win,
 None ! for evermore.

It is a weird and wondrous realm,
 Where I often hold my breath
At the unseen things which there I see,
At the mighty shapes which beckon to me,
At the visions of woe and ecstasy,
 At the greetings of life and death.

They rise, they pass, they melt away,
 In an ever-changing train ;
I cannot hold them or tell their stay,
Or measure the time of their fleeting sway ;
As grim as night, and as fair as day,
 They vanish and come again.

I wander on through the strange domain,
 Marvelling ever and aye ;
Marvelling how around my feet
All the opposites seem to meet,

The dark, the light, the chill, the glow,
The storm, the calm, the fire, the snow,
How can it be? I do not know.

Then how, oh how, can they?

What am I, and how? If reply there be,

In unsearchable chaos 't is cast.

Though the soaring spirit of restless man
Might the boundary line of the universe scan,
And measure and map its measureless plan,
The gift of self-knowledge were last!



MAKING POETRY.



LITTLE one, what are you doing,
 Sitting on the window-seat?
 Laughing to yourself, and writing,
 Some right merry thought inditing,
 Balancing with swinging feet.

" 'T is some poetry I'm making,
 Though I never tried before :
 Four whole lines ! I'll read them to you.
 Do you think them funny, do you ?
 Shall I try to make some more ?

" I should like to be a poet,
 Writing verses every day ;
 Then to you I'd always bring them,
 You should make a tune and sing them ;
 'T would be pleasanter than play."

Think you, darling, nought is needed
But the paper and the ink,
And a pen to trace so lightly,
While the eye is beaming brightly,
All the pretty things we think ?

There's a secret,—can you trust me ?
Do not ask me what it is !
Perhaps some day you too will know it,
If you live to be a poet,
All its agony and bliss.

Poetry is not a trifle,
Lightly thought and lightly made ;
Not a fair and scentless flower,
Gaily cultured for an hour,
Then as gaily left to fade.

'T is not stringing rhymes together
In a pleasant true accord ;
Not the music of the metre,
Not the happy fancies, sweeter
Than a flower-bell, honey-stored.

'T is the essence of existence,
Rarely rising to the light ;
And the songs that echo longest,
Deepest, fullest, truest, strongest,
With your life-blood you will write.

With your life-blood. None will know it,
You will never tell them how ;
Smile ! and they will never guess it :
Laugh ! and you will not confess it
By your paler cheek and brow.

There must be the tightest tension
Ere the tone be full and true ;
Shallow lakelets of emotion
Are not like the spirit-ocean,
Which reflects the purest blue.

Every lesson you shall utter,
If the charge indeed be yours,
First is gained by earnest learning,
Carved in letters deep and burning
On a heart that long endures.

Day by day that wondrous tablet
Your life-poem shall receive ;
By the hand of Joy or Sorrow ;
But the pen can never borrow
Half the records that they leave.

You will only give a transcript
Of a life-line here and there,
Only just a spray-wreath springing
From the hidden depths, and flinging
Broken rainbows on the air.

Still, if you but copy truly,
'Twill be poetry indeed,
Echoing many a heart's vibration,
Rather love than admiration
Earning as your priceless meed.

Will you seek it? Will you brave it?
'Tis a strange and solemn thing,
Learning long, before your teaching,
Listening long, before your preaching,
Suffering before you sing.

THE CASCADE.



HO saith that poetry is not in thee,
 Thou wild cascade, bright, beautiful, and
 free?

Who saith that thine own sunny gleaming waters
 Are not among "sweet Poesie's" fair daughters?
 No poetry in thee? then tell, oh tell,
 Where is the home where she delights to dwell?

But what is Poetry? ' Some aerial sprite,
 Clothed in a dazzling robe of wavy light,
 Whose magic touch unlocks the gates of joy
 In dreamland to some vision-haunted boy?
 Or is she but a breath from Eden-bowers,
 Charged with the fragrance of their shining flowers,
 Which passing o'er the harp-strings of the soul
 Awakes new melody, whose echoes roll

In waves of spirit-music through the heart,
Till tears and smiles in mingling sweetness start?
It may be so, but still she seems to me
Most like a God-sent sunlight, rich and free,
Bathing the tiniest leaf in molten gold,
Bidding each flower some secret charm unfold,
Weaving a veil of loveliness for earth,
Calling all fairy forms to wondrous birth.

Our sweet soul-Artist! Many a fair surprise
Her colour-treasures bring to waiting eyes;
Her pictures, sudden seen, oft seem to dwell
Like pearls within the rugged ocean shell,
They tell of something purer and more fair
Than earth can boast, and gleam forth everywhere,
Star-glimpses through the trees, or flashes bright
Of meteor glory in a northern night.

Our sweet soul-Harpist! linking winds with sighs,
And blending both with spirit-melodies,
And adding chords that come we know not whence,
Dream-echoes mingling with the wakeful sense.
O strange, O beautiful! though all unknown

The music-fount of every lovely tone,
The colour-fount of every lovely thought,
By this bright ministrant so freely brought,
Save that we own their true and soothing might
One of His perfect gifts, whose names are Love and
Light.

Oh ! she is often where we least surmise,
And scorns the dimness of our heavy eyes ;
We catch the ruby sparkles of her wing,
And she is gone like dewdrops of the spring ;
Again, to glad us with her smile she stays,
And shews her brightness to our loving gaze.
No cave so dark but she may gain its porch,
And gild the shadows with her quenchless torch ;
No dell so silent but her pealing voice
Can bid a leafy orchestra rejoice ;
No waste so lonely but she there may hold
Her gorgeous court in splendour all untold.
And where those waters murmur as they leap,
A song of gentleness, and calm, and sleep,
Within the sounding music of their tone
I hear a voice, and know it is her own.

And where the fair, fond sunbeams blithely play
Amid the hazy wreaths of dancing spray,
A form of fairy grace shines forth to me,
I hail the vision, for I know 't is she.
She loves that changeful, yet unchanging foam,
Within its arching bowers she finds a home,
And reads beneath its roof of fleeting snow
The secrets of the shadowy depth below.
Then who shall say that she is not in thee,
Thou wild cascade, bright, beautiful, and free!



CONSTANCE DE V—.

An episode in the early life of Charles Maurice, Prince de Talleyrand.



E maidens of Old England !
 The joyous and the free,
 The loving and the loved of all,
 Wherever ye may be ;
 Who wander through the ferny dell,
 And o'er the breezy hill,
 And glide along the woodland path
 All at your own sweet will ;
 Who know the many joys of home,
 The song, the smile, the mirth,
 The happy things which God has given
 To brighten this our earth :
 Comes there a sigh, a longing thought,
 In lonely musing hours ?
 Deem ye there is a fairer realm,
 A purer faith than ours ?

Oh, cast away the yearning dream,
 And listen, while I tell
 Of one who knew no other home
 Than her own convent cell.

I.

The rain comes down relentlessly,
 The sky is robed in gray,
 Oh, Paris is a dreary place
 On such a dreary day!
 But dreariest of the darkening streets,
 Where the loud rain doth fall,
 Is that where looms the convent tower,
 Where frowns the convent wall.

II.

A boyish step is passing
 Beneath the dripping eaves,
 With monkish lore beladen,
 With musty Latin leaves.
 Ah, Charles Maurice, the young abbé,
 Thou art of princely birth!
 For thee shall dawn a brighter day,
 A strange high part be thine to play,

With wondrous tact to guide and sway
The great ones of the earth !

III.

But the still-increasing torrents
Will spoil the ancient tomes,
And woe betide Charles Maurice
From the wrath of cowlèd gnomes !
So he seeks a low-bent archway
Within the grim old wall,
Where never the laughing footstep
Of a sunbeam dares to fall.

IV.

Anon he wraps the volumes
In the folds of his hooded gown ;
Then starts to hear, though he knows no fear,
A sound which tells him life is near—
That he is not alone.
He turns—the passage is dark as night,
He listens—but all is still,
Save the raindrops in monotonous march,
And the ceaseless drip from the mouldering arch,
On the stone so damp and chill.

V.

“ *Qui vive ?* ” he cries right gaily,
 Through the cavernous entry’s gloom ;
 But a low, faint cry is the sole reply,
 As the voice of one who is come to lie
 On the brink of a yawning tomb.
 Oh, where is the true-hearted lad,
 Who at the call of sorrow
 But in his thoughtlessness is glad
 To help the weak and cheer the sad,
 And promise a brighter morrow ?

VI.

The cry was one of weakness—
 Of weariness unblest ;
 And a pulse of gentle sympathy
 Makes music in his breast.
 Through the dark way he gropeth
 To the iron-studded door,
 Behind whose oaken grimness
 Some dwell in cloistral dimness
 Who may pass out no more.

VII.

There, in the glimmering darkness,
He deems he can descry
A small and sable-robed form
On the cold doorstep lie.
The form is that of maidenhood;
And, in that boyish heart,
It wakes a helpful tenderness,
Like that which, hidden, yet doth bless
Through a loved brother's fond caress,
Ere childhood's hours depart.

VIII.

"What is it?" said Charles Maurice,
In a softly-pitying tone;
"What dost thou fear? why art thou here?
And why that weary moan?"
Then, lifting her with gentle arm,
He bore her where the light
Fell on a girlish face so fair,
It seemed a seraph light to wear,
But for the sorrow mantling there,
And the glance of wild affright.

IX.

Why should I paint her beauty?
 Have ye not often tried
 To tell of rosy lip and cheek,
 Of starlit eyes that shine and speak,
 Of cloudlike locks that vainly seek
 The snowy brow to hide?
 And feel ye not, when all is said
 That words can ever say,
 The fount of beauty still is sealed—
 The loveliness is not revealed
 To those who list the lay.

X.

Oh, words can never satisfy—
 They are too hard and real;
 The subtle charm they cannot shew
 By which the Beautiful we know,
 The Beautiful we feel.
 Perchance they speak the form, the mind,
 And draw the likeness well;
 But at the closed entrance gate
 All reverently they bend and wait

Where, 'neath the marble-arching dome,
In crystal-windowed palace-home,
The soul itself doth dwell.

XI.

And who may tell how lovely
The gentle Constance seemed,
When through such clouds of sorrow
Her meteor beauty gleamed !
What wonder that all speechless,
As in a trance of gladness,
The young abbé stood wonderingly,
Before such radiant sadness ?

XII.

For the look of hopeless terror
Was softened as she raised
Those orbs of strange, quick brightness,
And on Charles Maurice gazed.
She saw the pledge of kindness
Traced on that high fair brow ;
"Oh, no ! thou never wilt betray,
But aid thou canst not ; say, oh say,
Am I not lost ? There is no way
Of safe return, I know."

XIII.

Then the trembling hands she folded
 Over the burning cheek,
 A wild and woe-born sobbing
 Forbade the lips to speak.
 Till quiet words of sympathy,
 So softly breathed and low,
 And the touch of that young hand on hers,
 Soon bade her story flow.

XIV.

“ I was a very little child,
 Not old enough to know,
 Perhaps kind looks had on me smiled,
 But I forget them now,
 When I was brought to live so coldly here,
 Where all goes on the same through weary month and
 year.

XV.

“ I did not know how lovely all
 The world without must be ;
 The sunbeams on the convent wall
 Were quite enough for me ;

But others came who knew, and then they told
Of all that I had dreamt, but never might behold.

XVI.

“ They told me of the mountains tall,
Where they might freely roam ;
They told me of the waterfall,
With music in its foam ;
They told me of wide fields and opening flowers,
Of sloping mossy banks and glowing autumn bowers.

XVII.

“ Of other things they told me, too,
More beautiful to them,
Of gleaming halls where sparklets flew
From many a radiant gem ;
And then they told of mirth, and dance, and song.
Would I had never heard, that I might never long !

XVIII.

“ They said the sky was just as blue
Above the convent towers,
As where the arching forests threw
A shade o'er summer flowers ;

But I grew weary of that dazzling sky,
And longed to wander forth, e'en if it were to die.

XIX.

“ I did not want to change my lot,
I knew it might not be,
I only longed to have one spot
All bright with memory.
To gaze just once upon the world I tried,
And then I would return to be Heaven's lonely bride.

XX.

“ But, oh, I heard no sounds of mirth,
No beauty I could see,
I could not find the lovely earth,
It was not made for me.
And now my punishment indeed is sore,
My only home hath closed on me its iron door.”

XXI.

Yes ! in her fevered restlessness
She left her unwatched cell,
When all around were summoned
By the deep-voiced matin-bell.

And in the damp-stoned cloisters
To rest awhile she thought,
Where cold, fresh air might round her play,
The burning fever pass away,
And coolness of the early day
To her hot brow be brought.

XXII.

Strange carelessness! no massy bar
Across the gate was thrown!
She deemed that world of beauty near;
She gazed around in haste and fear,
Oh, none were there to see and hear—
The timid bird has flown!
But the rain came down relentlessly,
The sky was robed in gray;
All dreary seemed the narrow street,
And nothing bright or fair might meet
Her of the white and trembling feet;
No loveliness is there to greet
That wandering star to-day.

XXIII.

Then, bowed with shame and weakness,
And disappointed hope,

She only reached the heavy door
 To find it firmly closed once more ;
 Ah, who shall help, and who restore,
 And who that door shall ope ?
 The strong young arm of Charles Maurice
 Tries once and yet again,
 But the weighty portal baffles him :
 Ah ! is it all in vain ?

XXIV.

But Constance darts one upward glance
 Of blent despair and trust ;
 There is no bolt, for daylight gleams
 Between the scarcely-meeting beams ;
 Some unknown obstacle there seems,
 And conquer it he must.
 He strains his utmost strength, the sweat
 Is beading on his brow ;
 It creaks—it yields ! O Constance, smile,
 The door is open now !

XXV.

From her cheek the flush hath faded,
 As fades the evening glow,

In pristine whiteness leaving
The rosy Alpine snow.
And like a breeze of twilight
The aspen-leaves among,
A whisper falls upon his ear
From quivering lip and tongue :

XXVI.

“ Farewell ! Oh, thou hast saved me ! ”
And the hand so white and cold,
With lingering clasp of gratitude,
Her wordless thanks hath told.
One moment on that small, fair hand
His youthful lips are pressed ;
There is a reverence in his eye,
For grief and beauty both are nigh ;
She passes like a spirit by,
To seek her cheerless rest.

XXVII.

They are parted, like the dewdrops
That linger in the smile
Of a storm-begotten rainbow,
But for a little while :

Then one in lonely dimness
To earth may soon descend ;
And one with the bright sky above,
Though all unseen, may blend.

XXVIII.

The young abbé hath paused in vain
To hear her footstep pass ;
'T was lighter than the noiseless fall
Of rose-leaf on the grass.
No sound is heard but the pattering rain,
And he slowly turns away,
With the brown old books beneath his gown,
To meet his abbot's gathering frown,
For loitering on the way.

XXIX.

Think you he conned the loveless lore
Without a thoughtful sigh
For the loveliness in sorrow,
Which passed so trance-like by ?
Among the missal borders
Was no such angel-face ;

And such, once seen, fade not away ;
Their image shines without decay,
When on the canvas of the heart,
With untaught skill, yet mystic art,
Each line of light we trace.

xxx.

The wing of Time seems broken now,
So tardy is his flight ;
He deems by day that she is dead,
He dreams she lives, by night.
Till quick anxiety hath found
A messenger to bear
The tidings that he strove to frame,
From woven hope and fear.

xxxi.

What wonder that he heard not
Her footfall on the stone !
She sank beneath the cloister wall,
Unheeded and alone ;
And ere Charles Maurice stood again
Beneath the open sky,

For ever on the things of earth
She closed her weary eye.

XXXII.

Constance, the beautiful, hath left
Her dismal convent cell ;
She hath not known one hope fulfilled,
One granted joy, one longing stilled.
For her the melody of life
Was but one chord of inward strife,
Was but one ruthless knell.
Her heart bedimmed with sameness,
Her only wish denied,
Oh, what a mockery it were
Her lot should such a title bear,
“ Heaven’s own appointed bride ! ”

XXXIII.

Why should her early spring-time
Be quenched in wintry gloom ?
Was it not merciful and wise
To call her spirit to the skies
From such a living tomb ?

How might that gentle maiden
Have scattered joy around,
And made the earth a brighter place,
For all her radiance and grace !
But now, unsorrowed and unknown,
Her only memory is a stone
Within the convent bound.



FAIRY HOMES.



'VE found at last the hiding-place
 Where the fairy people dwell,
 And to win the secrets of their race
 I hold the long-sought spell.

With the woodland fairies I can talk,
 I can list their silvery lays ;
 Oh ! pleasant in a lonely walk
 Is the company of fays.

No fabled fancy 't is to me,
 For in every floweret's bell
 Is a tiny chamber, where I see
 A gentle fairy dwell.

And at my bidding forth they come,
 To soothe me or to cheer,
 And to tell me tales of fairydom
 With voices soft and clear.

Full many a beauteous lesson too,
 Their rosy lips can teach,
Great men would wonder if they knew
 How well the fairies preach !

When thoughts of sorrow sadden me
 They seem to sympathise,
And gaze upon me lovingly,
 With tender earnest eyes ;

But when a tide of joyous glee
 Is bringing song and smile,
Then brightly they look up to me,
 And laugh with me awhile.

Oh ! lovely are the floweret homes
 Of these sweet summer fays ;
God's thoughts of beauty taking form
 To gladden mortal gaze.



MORE MUSIC.

OH for a burst of song,
 Exultant, deep, and strong,
 One gush of music's billowy might,
 To bear my soul away
 Into the realms of day,
 From these dim glacier-caves of Life's cold night!

Oh for a sunset strain
 Wafted o'er slumberous main,
 To enter, spirit-like, my prisoned heart,
 And there, with viewless hand,
 Unloose each mortal band,
 That in the songs of heaven I too might learn a part.

The sweetest music here
 Calls forth the quiet tear,
 For grief and gladness flow in blended stream;

Oh for the joyous day,
(Can it be far away ?)
When one great Alleluia song shall chase life's tune-
less dream !



TRAVELLING THOUGHTS.

On board the steamer *La France*, January 26. 1866.



STILL grey haze around us,
 Behind, a foreign shore,
 A still grey deep beneath us,
 And Dover cliffs before.
 Not one within a hundred miles
 Whose name I ever heard,
 None who would care to speak to me
 A passing friendly word :
 Yet not a shadow crosseth me
 Of loneliness or fear ;
 I bless the Omnipresent One,
 I know that God is here.

All whom I love are scattered :
 And many a month and mile

Rise, mountain-like, before, behind,
Between me and their smile.
Oh that the love I bear them
Might blossom into skill
To comfort and to brighten,
And all with gladness fill!
Ah! helpless love! Yet 'tis a joy
To turn each wish to prayer,
And, where each loved one sojourneth,
To know that God is there.

The nearest and the dearest
Are where the rushing Rhine
Bends northward from the Drachenfels,
From castle, rock, and vine;
Where long-lined chestnut shadows
Make tracery below,
And the moss-framed window challenges
The might of frost and snow.
Lit rather by the dawn of heaven
Than earthly sunset glow,
That passing home of faith and prayer!
Oh, God is there, I know!

From thence the wing of loving thought
Speeds on where Severn flows,
And hovers o'er as fair a scene
As our fair England knows;
The home of summer roses,
Of winter mirth and glee,
Long may that home unbroken,
That mirth unsilenced be!
The blessings of unbounded grace
I pray him to bestow,
And trust Him for the coming years,
For He is there, I know.

Now westward sweeps the vision
Across the Irish Sea,
And echoes low of sisters' love
Come back again to me.
A beacon bright in stormy night
Of error, rage, and wrong,
That home of love and truth shall cast
Its radiance pure and strong.
They tell of rumours strange and dark;
But oh! no need to fear!

God will not leave His own, I know,
His guardian hand is near.

Another scene by gentle Ouse
Must aye be dear to me,
Though all are not together now,
And one is on the sea.
And where a grey cathedral tower
Uprises broad and high,
A home is made in cloistral shade,
Beside the winding Wye.
To seek the richest boons for these,
Why should the heart be slow?
One Shepherd, Chief, and Great, and Good,
Is watching there, I know.

Then, in a busy city,
A crypt all dark and lone,
A name engraven on our hearts
Is traced upon a stone.
Not *there* the sainted spirit!
She dwells in holy light,
Within the pearl-raised portals,
With those who walk in white.

May all her children follow
The path she meekly trod,
And reach the home she rests in now,
And dwell, like her, with God.



NEW YEAR'S WISHES.



PEARL-STREWN pathway of untold glad-
ness,

Flecked by no gloom, by no weary sadness,
Such be the year to thee!

A crystal rivulet, sunlight flinging,
Awakening blossoms, and joyously singing
Its own calm melody.

A symphony soft, and sweet, and low,
Like the gentlest music the angels know
In their moments of deepest joy;
'Mid earth's wild clamour thy spirit telling
Of beauty and holiness, upward swelling,
And mingling with the sky.

A radiant, fadeless Eden flower,
Unfolding in loveliness hour by hour,
Like a wing-veiled seraph's face;—

Such be the opening year to thee,
Shrouded though all its moments be,
 Unknown as the bounds of space.

Blessings unspoken this year be thine !
Each day in its rainbow flight entwine
 New gems in thy joy-wreathed crown ;
May each in the smile of Him be bright,
Who is changeless Love and unfading Light,
Till the glory seem to thy tranced sight
 As heaven to earth come down.



BONNIE WEE ERIC.

ONNIE wee Eric! I have sat beside the evening
fire,
And listened to the leaping flame still darting
keenly higher,
And all the while a lispig voice and eyes of sunny
blue
Out-whispered the flame-whisper, and outshone the
flicker too.

Bonnie wee Eric! To his home thoughts pleasantly
return,
To long fair evenings in the land of ben and brae and
burn;
Sweet northern words, so tunefully upon our Saxon
flung,
As if a mountain breeze swept by where fairy bells are
hung.

But sweeter than all fairy bells of quaint sweet minstrel
 tongue,
 Rang out wee Eric's gentlest tone when o'er his cot I
 hung,
 And told him in the sunset glow once more the old dear
 story
 Of Him who walked the earth that we might walk with
 Him in glory.

"He loyes the little children so;—does darling Eric
 love Him?"
 I think the angels must have smiled a rainbow-smile
 above him,
 Yet hardly brighter than his own, that lit the answer
 true,
 "Jesus, the kind good Jesus! Me do, oh yes, me do!"

Bonnie wee Eric! How the thought of heaven is full
 of joy,
 And death has not a shadow for the merry healthful
 boy!
 To hear about the happy home he gladly turns away
 From picture books, or Noah's ark, or any game of
 play.

“Mamma, some day me die, and then the angels take
me home

To Jesus, and me sing to Him;—Papa and you too
come.”

So brightly said! “But, Eric, would you really *like*
to die?”

She answered him; “then, darling, tell mamma the
reason why?”

And then the sunny eyes looked up, and seemed at once
to be

Filled with a happy solemn light, like sunrise on the
sea;

He said—“Yes me *would* like to die, *for me know where*
me going!”

What saint-like longing, baby lips! and oh! what
blessèd knowing!

The lesson of the “little child” is sweetly learnt from
him;

No questioning, no anxious faith all tremulous and dim,
No drowsy love that hardly knows if it be love indeed;
Not “think” or “hope,” but—“Oh me *do*,”—“me
know,”—his simple creed.

Bonnie wee Eric! Hardly launched on this world's
troubled sea,
We know the little bark is safe whate'er its course may
be;
And short or long, or fair or rough, our hearts are glad
in knowing
It will be onward, heavenward still, for he "*knows where*
he's going."



MY SWEET WOODRUFF.

O more the flowers of spring are seen,
 And silence fills the summer noon ;
 The woods have lost the fresh bright green
 Of May and June.

But yesterday I found a flower,
 Deep sheltered from the withering rays,
 Which might have known the sun and shower
 Of April days.

I did not think again to find
 Such tender relic of the spring ;
 It thrilled such gladness through my mind,
 I needs must sing.

My girlhood's spring has passed for aye,
 With many a fairy tint and tone ;
 The heat and burden of the day
 Are better known.

But by my summer path has sprung
A flower of happy love, as fair
As e'er a subtle fragrance flung
On spring's clear air.

I hardly thought to feel again
Such dewy freshness in my heart,
And so one little loving strain
Must upward start.

There was spring-sunshine in my eyes,
I had such joy in finding you
So full of all I love and prize,
So dear and true.

My heart is richer far to-day
Than when I came a week ago ;
How near to me such treasure lay
I did not know !

The long parenthesis is o'er,
And now, in letters all of light,
The story of our love once more.
We both may write.

I have no words to breathe the praise
Which now for this "good gift" I owe ;
A wordless anthem I must raise,
But HE will know.



OUR GEM WREATH.

 EARD ye the sounds of joyous glee
 And the notes of merry minstrelsy,
 And the purling of low, sweet words
 which start

From the silent depths of a loving heart;
 And the gushing laugh, and the rippling song,
 As the summer days sped swift along?

Saw ye the gleam of sunny hair,
 And the glancing of forms yet young and fair,
 And the dancing light of happy eyes,
 And smiles like the rosy morning skies?
 Saw ye and heard? and would ye not know
 What made such mirth and music flow?

There were maidens five, as blithe and free
 As the curbless waves of the open sea:
 They met;—ye may liken their early greeting
 To the dewdrops on a roseleaf meeting;

Then many a day flew uncounted by,
With Love like an angel hovering nigh,
While the ruby light of his sparkling wing
Flung a tint of joy on everything.

“ In books, or works, or healthful play,”
As the merriest lips would often say,
Or in strange attempts to weave a spell
Which might bid the Muses among them dwell,
Or in a stream of mingled song,
Some of their hours have passed along ;
Bearing the sound of each pleasant lay,
And the echo of many a laugh, away.

When the burning day is on the wane,
They wander through some darkening lane,
In quieter converse lingering awhile
'Neath the arching roof of its shadowy aisle.

Where the latest sunbeams kiss the brow
Of Malvern's Beacon, see them now ;
Springing o'er moss-bed, and rock, and stone,
As though the green earth were all their own ;
And singing forth to the fair wide scene,
In a loyal chorus, “ *God save the Queen !* ”

Again, from out the busy street,
They pass with gladly reverent feet
Within the old cathedral's shade ;
And feel the sacred silence laid
Upon the lips, upon the heart,
By time and place thus "set apart."
Then the anthem fills the glorious fane,
Till its solemn tones float back again,
Round arch and column the sound enwreathing,
Till they seem with holy music breathing,—
Music and love ; while the choral praise
Images better and holier days.

Yet once again ;—with low bent head,
They are kneeling where the Feast is spread ;
Not one is absent, all are there
Its silent blessedness to share.
Well may a bond of love be felt,
When thus together they have knelt.

Would ye know the maidens five, oh say ?
The meek, the merry, the grave, the gay :
Each jewel of all the sunlit cluster
Shines with its own unborrowed lustre,

Then listen and gaze, while each shall pass,
As a half-seen vision in magic glass

I.

A QUIET summer evening, when the daybeams' heat
and glare
Have passed away, and coolness comes upon the cloud-
less air,
And the soft grey twilight wakes the stars to glisten
o'er the hill,
And the only vesper-chime is rung by one low-murmur-
ing rill :

Like such an evening is the soul of that one dark-eyed
maid,
Amid earth's restless turmoil like a calm and pleasant
shade ;
So soothing and so gently sweet her words of deep love
fall
Upon the wearied spirit, like the ringdove's forest call.
Well hath she learnt to sympathise with every hope and
fear,
Well hath she learnt the sorrowing heart to brighten
and to cheer ;

Long years of weary weakness have not passed away in
vain,
If the holy art of sympathy they taught her to attain.

Her fairy footstep falleth as a noiseless flake of snow,
So violet-like and still that we her presence hardly
know;
But like a gleaming vessel-path, far glittering through
the night,
She leaves a memory behind of soft and silvery light,

Within the crystal cavern of retirement ye find
That gem of inward radiance, her "meek and quiet"
mind;
Not like the flashing topaz, or the ruby's gorgeous glow,
She is a precious AMETHYST, whose value well we know.

II.

Now turn we to that merry maiden,
With azure eye, and smooth bright hair;
A lily blossom, fragrance-laden,
Is not more fair.

A dewdrop to the thirsty flower,
A sun-ray gilding every cloud,

A rainbow when the thunder-shower
Is rushing loud ;

A spirit full of pleasant brightness,
That speaks from lip, and cheek, and brow,
To whose glad spell of cheering lightness
E'en grief must bow.

Her hand hath learnt with wondrous power
Scenes of rare loveliness to trace,
And picture forms with airy dower
Of beauteous grace.

The breath of flattery hath not tainted
Her simple thought with pride's dark stain ;
Because her leaves are richly painted,
Is the rose vain ?

Then as an orient EMERALD shining,
Long may her loveliness be set
Among the sister-gems, entwining
Our coronet.

III.

SAY, who shall form the vision-centre now ?
She of the large, soft eye, and pensive smile,

She of the earnest gaze, and thoughtful brow :
Who would not love to read her looks awhile,
Or list that often silent voice, whose flow
Like distant waterfall is heard, so sweet and low ?

Not many summers o'er her youth have cast
Their varying sun and shade, and we might deem
No breath of sadness o'er her soul had passed,
But for that orb subdued, like some lone stream,
Where the sad willows rest in shadowy love,
While its blue depth reflects the sunlit heaven above.

All calmness, yet deep sorrow she hath known,
Dimming the star of hope which shone so clear,
The song of life hath changed its joyous tone,
The pearl of life hath melted to a tear ;
But star and song shall rise in brighter day,
And hers that priceless Pearl which none may take away.

Her sorrow, all unspoken, doth but twine
Our earnest love more changelessly around her ;
While we look onward, upward, for the time
When Joy's fair garland shall again have crowned her,
Who as the PEARL of all our wreath is gleaming,
In mild and moonlit radiance softly 'mid us beaming.

IV.

LIKE a flash of meteor light,
Strangely gladdening and bright,
Is the youngest of the band,
Making every heart expand.

Like a petrel on the wave,
What to her though tempests rave ?
She will skim each foamy crest,
Making all around her blest.

Like a song-bird of the spring,
She is ever on the wing ;
Carolling in blithest glee,
Like the wild breeze, fresh and free.

Like a beautiful gazelle
Bounding over hill and dell ;
Like the scented hawthorn-flowers,
Ever scattering blossom-showers.

Can a star of light be found,
Shedding aught but light around ?
Joy and gladness must be nigh,
Where her starry pinions fly.

Clear and open as the day,
All may trust her glancing ray,
All must love its rainbow light;
Is she not a DIAMOND bright!

V.

AND the last maiden,—what is she?
She sees not herself as others see,
 From an outward point of view;
She only knows the scenes within,
The weary conflict, and the sin,
The strivings a better life to win,
 And the gleams of gladness too.

But little she knows of the secret cells,
Where in lonely twilight the spirit dwells
 In an ever mysterious home,
Where music, and beauty, and sweet perfume,
Grim storms, and the blackness of the tomb,
In morning brightness, and midnight gloom,
 In an untracked labyrinth roam.

How many a chamber within is sealed!
How wondrous the little that is revealed
 In a scarce-caught whispering tone!

Strange thoughts come forth to her outer gaze,
Wild fancies flash with spectral rays,
And feelings glow with uncertain blaze;
But their fountain is all unknown.

Ah ! she would long to glean a ray
From each lovely gem of this summer lay,
For her own are faint and few,
The tremulous OPAL'S changeful light
May emblem her, now dark, now bright,
Yet blending in love with each sister sprite
In a union fond and true.

Such are the five, as now they seem
In the golden haze of Memory's dream.
But the future ! who may lift the veil
And read its yet unwritten tale !
The rose, or the thorn, the sun, the cloud,
The gleeful heart, or the spirit bowed,
The song of joy, or the wail of woe,
Which shall be theirs, we may not know.
Then sorrow and joy alike we leave
In the Hand which doeth all things well,

And calmly from that Hand receive
All that each coming year may tell.
Our jewel-garland lives by Him ;
We would not ask of life or death,
Who first shall break its shining rim ;
It shall be as the Master saith ;
He only shall untwine the bond,
So fair and faithful, fresh and fond.
But oh ! that each who glistens now
In this verse-woven coronet,
Upon the Saviour's thorn-wreathed brow
May as a living gem be set.
Then never shall their light grow dim ;
Redeemed and sanctified by Him,
Their life and love in blended rays
Shall shine in everlasting praise.



MY NAME.*



FROM childish days I never heard
 My own baptismal name;
 Too small, too slight, too full of glee
 Aught else but "little Fan" to be,
 The stately "Frances" not in me
 Could any fitness claim.

Now, in the crowded halls of life,
 May it be mine to bring
 Some gentle stir of the heated air,
 Some coolness falling fresh and fair,
 Like a passing angel's wing.

* Suggested by the question, "What does the letter R in your initials (F. R. H.) represent?"

My father's name,—oh how I love
Its else unwonted look !
For his dear sake right dear I hold
Each letter, changed as he has told
Long since from early Saxon mould,
“The rising of the brook.”*

Of music, holiness, and love
That name will always tell,
While sacred chant and anthem rise,
Or mourners live whose deepest sighs
To echoes of a Father's will
He tuned, or child or grandchild still
On his bright memory dwell.

But “what the R doth represent,”
I value and revere ;
A diamond clasp it seems to be
On golden chains enlinking me

* “Heavergill” —the heaving or rising of the brook, or gill.

In loyal love to England's hope,
Bulwark 'gainst infidel and Pope,
The Church I hold so dear.

Three hundred years ago was one,
Who held with steadfast hand
That chalice of the truth of God,
And poured its crystal stream abroad
Upon the thirsting land.

The moderate, the wise, the calm,
The learned, brave and good,*
A guardian of the sacred ark,
A burning light in places dark,
For cruel, changeless Rome a mark,
Our Bishop RIDLEY stood.

* "A man beautified with such excellent qualities, so ghostly inspired and godly learned, and now written doubtless in the book of life with the blessed saints of the Almighty, crowned and throned amongst the glorious company of martyrs."—*Fox's Acts and Monuments*.

The vengeance of that foe nought else
But fiery doom could still :
Too surely fell the lightning stroke
Upon that noble English oak,
Whose acorn-memory survives
In forest ranks of earnest lives,
And martyr-souls in will.

Rome offered life for faith laid down :
Such ransom paid not he !
“ As long as breath is in this frame,
My Lord and Saviour Christ His name
And His known truth I'll not deny : ”
He said (and raised His head on high),
“ God's will be done in me. ” *

He knelt and prayed, and kissed the stake,
And blessed his Master's name
That he was called His cross to take,

* See Works of Bishop Ridley.—*Parker Society*, pp. 295 and 296.

And counted worthy for His sake
To suffer death and shame.*

Though fierce the fire and long the pain,
The martyr's God was nigh;
Till from that awful underglow
Of torture terrible and slow,
Above the weeping round about,
Once more the powerful voice rang out
His Saviour's own last cry.

Oh faithful unto death! the crown
Was shining on thy brow,
Before the ruddy embers paling,
And sobbing aftergusts of wailing
Had died away, and left in silence
That truest shrine of British islands,
That spot so sacred now!

In dear old England shineth yet
The candle lit that day;

* See Works of Bishop Ridley.—*Parker Society*, pp. 295 and 296.

Right clear and strong its flames arise,
Undimmed, unchanged, toward the skies,
By God's good grace it never dies,
A living torch for aye.

XIV.

'T is said that while he calmly stood
And waited for the flame,
He gave each trifle that he had,
True relic-treasure, dear and sad,
To each who cared to claim.
I was not there to ask a share,
But reverently for ever wear
That noble martyr's *name*.



FAITH AND REASON.



REASON unstrings the harp to see
 Wherein the music dwells ;
 Faith pours a Hallelujah song,
 And heavenly rapture swells.
 While Reason strives to count the drops
 That lave our narrow strand,
 Faith launches o'er the mighty deep,
 To seek a better land.

One is the foot that slowly treads
 Where darkling mists enshroud ;
 The other is the wing that cleaves
 Each heaven-obscuring cloud.
 Reason, the eye which sees but that
 On which its glance is cast ;
 Faith is the thought that blends in one
 The Future and the Past.

In hours of darkness, Reason waits,
Like those in days of yore,
Who rose not from their night-bound place,
On dark Egyptian shore.
But Faith more firmly clasps the hand
Which led her all the day,
And when the wished-for morning dawns,
Is farther on her way.

By Reason's alchymy in vain
Is golden treasure planned ;
Faith meekly takes a priceless crown,
Won by no mortal hand.
While Reason is the labouring oar
That smites the wrathful seas,
Faith is the snowy sail spread out
To catch the freshening breeze.

Reason, the telescope that scans
A universe of light ;
But Faith, the angel who may dwell
Among those regions bright.
Reason, a lonely towering elm,
May fall before the blast ;

Faith, like the ivy on the rock,
Is safe in clinging fast.

While Reason, like a Levite, waits
Where priest and people meet,
Faith, by a "new and living way,"
Hath gained the mercy-seat.
While Reason but returns to tell
That this is not our rest,
Faith, like a weary dove, hath sought
A gracious Saviour's breast.

Yet both are surely precious gifts
From Him who leads us home;
Though in the wilds Himself hath trod
A little while we roam.
And, linked within the soul that knows
A living, loving Lord,
Faith strikes the key-note, Reason then
Fills up the full-toned chord.

Faith is the upward-pointing spire
O'er life's great temple springing,

From which the chimes of love float forth
Celestially ringing ;
While Reason stands below upon
The consecrated ground,
And, like a mighty buttress, clasps
The wide foundation round.

Faith is the bride that stands enrobed
In white and pure array,
Reason, the handmaid who may share
The gladness of the day.
Faith leads the way, and Reason learns
To follow in her train ;
Till, step by step, the goal is reached,
And death is glorious gain.



LYNTON.



HY does it seem familiar ground ?

I was never here before ;

I never saw this fairy dream

Of wood and wave, of rock and stream,

Nor watched the snowy foam-line gleam

On Devon's bay-loved shore.

It feels as weird and strange as though

My spirit had been here ;

And in the mists of long ago

An outline wavers to and fro,

Now colourless, now all aglow,

Now faint, now wondrous clear.

I know it now—the tender spell

On all this pleasant scene ;

For memory's first pale flickering light

Falls on a long-forgotten night,
Though conscious lifetime, dark and bright,
Lies all outstretched between.

The dearest name I ever spoke
Was on my lips that eve ;
We gave her "welcome home" once more,
Unknown, the last short absence o'er ;
And now, she is but "gone before"
The palm-branch to receive.

I know it now,—*she* told me all ;
I sat upon her knee,
And heard about the cliff so tall,
The craggy path, the rocky wall,
The ever-chanting waterfall,
The silver autumn sea :

The steep and dangerous way above,
The winding dell beneath ;
The rushing Lyn, the shadowy trees,
The hills that breast the Channel-breeze,
The white ships bound for western seas ;
One shining marvel-wreath !

A little picture she had brought
Of Lynton's lovely vale ;
I fastened it upon my wall,
Half deeming I had seen it all ;
While colours came at fancy's call
To deck those outlines pale.

Hers then the charm, so strangely sweet,
Which made me sit and gaze ;
'T is like a breeze from far-off hills,
Or midnight anthem of wild rills,
That cools the fever-fire which fills
Our hot and hurried days.

It may be that the parting time
Has more than half gone by,
That ere another twenty years
Have mingled all their smiles and tears,
We may have passed all griefs and fears,
And her dear welcome greet our ears
To her blest home on high.

Oh, might it be ! That far-off land
Is all unseen as yet :

But when we pass its portals fair,
It may be that some glory there
Sweetly familiar shall appear,
Because we heard it whispered here
By that soft voice, whose accents dear
We never can forget.



A BIRTHDAY GREETING TO MY FATHER.

1860.

 IS fully known to ONE, by us yet dimly seen,
 The blessing thou HAST BEEN;
 Yet speaks the silent love of many a mourn-
 ing heart
 The blessing that thou ART;
 While traced on coming years, in faith and hope we
 see,
 "A blessing thou SHALT BE;"
 Then here in holy labour, there in holier rest,
 BLESSING, thou SHALT BE BLESSED.



A LULL IN LIFE.

“And He said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.”—
 MARK VI. 31.



H for “a desert place” with only the Master’s smile!

Oh for the “coming apart” with only His “rest awhile!”

Many are “coming and going” with busy and restless feet,

And the soul is hungering now, with “no leisure so much as to eat.”

Dear is my wealth of love from many and valued friends,
 Best of the earthly gifts that a bounteous Father sends;

Pleasant the counsel sweet, and the interchange of
thought,
Welcome the twilight hour with musical brightness
fraught.

Dear is the work He gives in many a varied way,
Little enough in itself, yet something for every day,
Something by pen for the distant, by hand or voice for
the near,
Whether to soothe, or teach, whether to aid or cheer.

Not that I lightly prize the treasure of valued friends,
Not that I turn aside from the work the Master sends,
Yet I have longed for a pause in the rush and whirl of
time,
Longed for silence to fall instead of its merriest chime.

Longed for a hush to group the harmonies of thought
Round each melodious strain that the harp of life hath
caught,
And time for the fitful breeze Æolian chords to bring,
Waking the music that slept, mute in the tensionless
string :

Longed for a calm to let the circles die away
That tremble over the heart, breaking the heavenly ray,
And to leave its wavering mirror true to the Star above,
Brightened and stilled to its depths with the quiet of
 “perfect love”:

Longed for a sabbath of life, a time of renewing of youth,
For a full-orbed leisure to shine on the fountains of holy
 truth ;
And to fill my chalice anew with its waters fresh and
 sweet,
While resting in silent love at the Master's glorious
 feet.

There are songs which only flow in the loneliest shades
 of night,
There are flowers which cannot grow in a blaze of
 tropical light,
There are crystals which cannot form till the vessel be
 cooled and stilled ;
Crystal, and flower, and song, given as God hath
 willed.

There is work which cannot be done in the swell of a
hurrying tide,
But my hand is not on the helm to turn my bark aside ;
Yet I cast a longing eye on the hidden and waveless
pool,
Under the shadowing rock, currentless, clear, and cool.

Well ! I will wait in the crowd till He shall call me
apart,
Till the silence fall which shall waken the music of
mind and heart ;
Patiently wait till He give the work of my secret
choice,
Blending the song of life with the thrill of the Master's
voice.



ADORATION.

O MASTER, at Thy feet
 I bow in rapture sweet;
 Before me, as in darkening glass,
 Some glorious outlines pass,
 Of love, and truth, and holiness, and power;
 I own them Thine, O Christ, and bless Thee for this
 hour.

O full of truth and grace,
 Smile of Jehovah's face,
 O tenderest heart of love untold!
 Who may Thy praise unfold?
 Thee, Saviour, Lord of lords and King of kings,
 Well may adoring seraphs hymn with veiling wings.

I have no words to bring
 Worthy of Thee, my King,
 And yet one anthem in Thy praise
 I long, I long to raise;

The heart is full, the eye entranced above,
But words all melt away in silent awe and love.

How can the lip be dumb,
The hand all still and numb,
When Thee the heart doth see and own
Her Lord and God alone?
Tune for Thyself the music of my days,
And open Thou my lips that I may shew Thy praise.

Yea, let my whole life be
One anthem unto Thee,
And let the praise of lip and life
Outring all sin and strife.
O Jesus, Master! be Thy name supreme
For heaven and earth the one, the grand, the eternal
theme.



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